Santa catches a quick wave

On Christmas Eve, the annual Surfing Santas of Cocoa Beach event will be host to hundreds of surfers dressed in festive costumes.

Surfing St. Nicks are set to shred in Cocoa Beach

By Austin Rushnell
ARushnell@hometownnewsbrevard.com

BREVARD COUNTY – There's nothing better than catching a tasty wave off of Cocoa Beach, and even Saint Nick needs a little relaxation before the big day.

Every year since 2009, local surfers and friends have taken to the sands of Cocoa Beach dressed as Santas, elves, and other Christmas-themed costumes on Christmas Eve morning in support of Grind For Life. The Santas will be out once again this Christmas Eve, from 8 a.m. to noon at the east end of Minutemen Causeway.

Grind for Life is an organization that provides financial support for individuals with cancer, as well as their families, by hosting contests and events such as the Surfing Santas of Cocoa.

See SURFING, page 11

No Shave contest to benefit United Way of Brevard

By Jamie Desena-McFarland
For Hometown News

COCOA – Like many businesses and organizations throughout the county, the city of Cocoa has an annual fundraising campaign for United Way of Brevard.

City employees are close to reaching this year’s goal of $25,500, and with their last scheduled fundraiser of the year, they're hoping to bring in just a hair more in order to meet that goal.

The final fundraiser of the campaign, a “No Shave November” contest, required participants to grow out their beards or mustaches during the entire month of November.

This month, residents will have the opportunity to vote for their favorites as a way to support the campaign and United Way of Brevard.

Each vote costs $1 and voters can cast as many votes as they like until Dec. 31 at www.cocoanoshavenovember.myevent.com. If voters make about $600 worth of votes, the campaign team will meet its goal.

"The city is very passionate about giving back to the community," said Building Inspector Brandon Vickers.

See SHAVE, page 11
FRIDAY, DEC. 22

Rockin’ Christmas party with Jimmy Horzen: Buena Vida Estates invites you to participate in a rockin’ Christmas party with entertainment by Jimmy Horzen from 2 to 4 p.m. Dec. 22 at Buena Vida Estates, 2129 W. New Haven Ave., West Melbourne.

For more information, call 321-724-0060, Ext. 23.

Fire program: Join a Ranger to learn about wildfire ecology and prescribed burning and its vital role in maintaining habitat for local flora and fauna Fridays, Dec. 22 at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, 1987 Scrub Jay Way, Titusville.

For more information, call 321-610-0669.

Live Christmas music: Space Coast Quartet will present a Christmas concert at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 22, at Frontenac Baptist Church, 5500 N. Cocoa Blvd., Cocoa. A love offering will be taken for the group.

For more information, call 321-567-5759.

Lights of Hope set to begin: Lights of Hope will run through Dec. 24 at Sand Point Park, 101 N. Washington Ave., Titusville. It will include a 45,000-square-foot walking tour of professional light displays, weekly scheduled live entertainment, Santa, hayrides, a kid’s maze, holiday arts & crafts, food vendors and lots of family fun activities.

General admission is $6 per person, payable by cash or credit card at the gate. Children 3 and younger are admitted free. To save time and avoid lines, buy tickets online at http://bit.ly/LightsOfHope2017.

For more information, call Chrissy Gordon at 321-863-6359 or Trey Gordon at 321-863-6357.

Holiday gift shoppe opens at Studios: The Studios of Cocoa Beach, 165 Minutemen Causeway, presents a holiday collection of affordable treasures will fill the Studios through Jan. 4, during regular studio hours.

The studio is open from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

For more information on exhibits, artists, and the workshop schedule, visit www.studiosoffcobeach.org or call 321-613-3480.

Christmas tree fundraiser sale: Frasier firs from North Carolina will be for sale to benefit Cross Bridge Learning Center Preschool and Day Care, 651 Barnes Blvd, Rockledge.

Hours of operation will be from 5 to 9 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturdays and closed Sundays.

For more information, call 321-636-4600.

All proceeds will benefit the Learning Center.

For more information, visit crossbridgenaz.org/cross-bridge-learning-center.

Play Mahjong with others: Learn to play Mahjong at the Palm Bay Library on Fridays, Dec. 22 and 29 at 2:30 p.m. at 1520 Port Malabar Blvd., NE. Asian- and American-rules games will be played. The cost is free and experienced players are welcome.

For more information, call 321-952-4519.

Winter term registration ongoing for The Shepherd’s Center-Beachside: The winter term for the Shepherd’s Center-Beachside’s Adventures in Learning for Adults is Jan. 11 to March 2. Register online at www.my shepherdcenter.org.

The winter term classes will be at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church on Fridays and Ascension Lutheran Church on Fridays. For more information, call 321-636-3937 or email thth159@yahoo.com.

Dinner and dancing: Elks Lodge No. 1744 welcomes Elks and guests to their lodge, 211 S. Nieman Ave., Melbourne, for Dinner and Dance Night with Lou and the Entertainers each Friday for $15.50.

For more information about room rentals or scheduled activities, call 321-768-1744.

SATURDAY, DEC. 23

Fire program: Join a ranger to learn about fire ecology and prescribed burning on the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and its vital role in maintaining habitat for local flora and fauna. The program is from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 23, at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, 1987 Scrub Jay Way, Titusville.

For more information, call 321-861-0669.

Families receive early Christmas surprise

By Brittany Mulligan
bmulligan@hometownnewsol.com

BREVARD COUNTY – There’s nothing more pleasing to hear than the sounds of kids joyfully ripping into presents when Santa Claus may have otherwise missed their homes this year.

With the help of the Zazza Community Foundation, Elite Airways and many others, 10 families got to experience Christmas a little early by spending it at the North Pole.

Now in its 10th year, “Jingle Jet” is an event created by radio personality Tony Zazza, who aims to surprise families with a magical day with the help of volunteers and community service.

“It’s a pretty incredible thing,” Mr. Zazza said. “Every year we hear of families with different stories and we want to give them an escape.”

Families who have met hardships throughout the year are nominated by third parties like friends, co-workers or neighbors. Some have suffered from natural disasters, such as Hurricane Irma damaging one family’s rental home and a recent fire that destroyed another home.

Other families suffered from hardships such as the loss of a 10-year-old in a bicycle accident and a mother who was diagnosed with cancer earlier this year.

Eight of the 10 families are local to Brevard, while two families come from outside the county through affiliations with radio stations 107.1 A1 in Melbourne, Z96 in Fort Walton Beach, and 97.5 WABD in Mobile, Alabama.

The out-of-county families were invited to stay in a hotel close to Orlando Melbourne International Airport in order to participate. The magic began on the morning of Dec. 13 when a limousine provided by Hot Rayz Limos picked up each of the families for a 10:15 a.m. boarding at the Apex Jet Center.

Families, volunteers and press boarded a CRJ-700 plane for the ride of a lifetime. Flight attendants kept the families entertained as everyone sang Christmas carols, took “selfies” and looked for icebergs as they took off for the North Pole.

When they returned to the Apex Jet Center, Mr. and Mrs. Claus awaited the lucky guests outside the terminal in a warm welcome.

Families who faced undue hardship in the past year were invited to attend the Zazza Community Foundation’s annual ‘Jingle Jet’ event in Melbourne.

Families received gifts such as bicycles and helmets, dolls, Casio keyboards, Nerf guns, stuffed animals, “Star Wars” toys and more.

“We love to see the excitement on the kids’ faces,” said Joshua Kalbow, a pilot on the Jingle Jet flight.

Flight attendants Somer Overton and Athina Wademan said they were just as thrilled to be a part of the Jingle Jet team this year.

After opening their presents, families took pictures with Disney princesses from the movies “Frozen” and “Moana” and the TV series “Elena of Avalor.”

Lunch was provided by Wassi’s Meat Market, and kids had the opportunity to get their faces painted and listen to a story told by Santa Claus.

See JINGLE JET, page 7

Just a reminder to our patients: we will be closed December 25th through January 1st for the holidays. We will reopen on Tuesday, January 2nd, 2018.

Happy Kwanzaa and January 2nd, 2018.

May your holidays be merry and bright!

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Police Report

Editor's Note: There will be no police reports this week. Please check back in next week's edition for the police reports.

Calendar

From page 2

thrash bags will be provided.

For more information, call 321-861-0669.

Farmers market every Saturday in Cocoa Beach: The Space Coast Farmers Market is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Saturday at First United Methodist Church, 3300 N. Atlantic Ave., Cocoa Beach.

For more information, call Joyce Rizzo at 321-961-2732 or Pam Rollins at 321-514-8823 or send an email to spacecoastfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

Farmers market every Saturday in Rockledge: The Space Coast Farmers Market is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Saturday at Larry Schultz Park, 2560 Fiske Blvd., Rockledge.

For more information, call Joyce Rizzo at 321-961-2732 or Pam Rollins at 321-514-8823 or send an email to spacecoastfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

Rock the Porch: Rock the Porch Jam is from 1 to 2:50 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 23, and on the second and fourth Saturdays at Melbourne Beach Old Town Hall History Center, 2373 Oak St., Melbourne Beach. The free, inclusive event features blues, rock, folk, and country jam for spectators and musicians.

For more information, call 321-427-4624, email info@beandthehive.com, or visit www.beandthehive.com.

Wildlife bus tour: Join a knowledgeable refuge volunteer for a two-hour guided opportunity to identify the varieties of birds found at the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge such as the Reddish Egret, Florida Scrub Jay, Great Blue Herons and many more on Saturdays, Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays until Dec. 31.

The cost is $5 per person, $2.50 with senior or access pass.

Meet at the refuge, 1987 Scrub Jay Way, Titusville.

Space is limited so call 321-861-0669 for reservations.

Weekend karaoke: Elks Lodge No. 1744 welcomes Elks and guests to their lodge, 211 S. Nieman Ave., Melbourne, the first and third Saturdays of the month for karaoke in the bar.

For more information about room rentals or scheduled activities, call 321-768-1744.

SUNDAY, DEC. 24

Christmas Eve service: Tomoka Christian Church is hosting Christmas Eve services at 4 and 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24, at 344 Emerson Drive, NW Palm Bay.

For more information, go to www.tomoka.cc.

MONDAY, DEC. 25


Reservations are required.

For more information, call 321-631-9494.

TUESDAY, DEC. 26

Alligator program: Learn about the natural history of this intriguing reptile and handle gator bio-facts Tuesday, Dec. 26 at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge’s auditorium, 1987 Scrub Jay Way, Titusville.

For more information, call 321-861-0669.

Celebrating six years of Kwanzaa in Brevard: The Nguzu Saba Collective (NSC), parent organization of the Kwanzaa events, and Space Coast Cultural Arts and Business Organization Charities (SCCABO), will kick off the celebrations with the first Kwanzaa Principle, Umoja, which means (Unity) in Swahili, from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 26, at JamRock Bar & Grill, 1901 Palm Bay Road NW, Palm Bay. The keynote speaker is Pastor Wesley Bruce.

On Sunday, Dec. 31, the sixth night of Kwanzaa will start at 6 p.m. at the Melbourne/Palm Bay Delta Life Development Center, 805 E. Hopkins Street, Melbourne. The keynote speaker is Jordin Chandler.

Both events are free and open to the public.

This year marks the 51st anniversary of See CALENDAR, page 7
Rants & Raves

Got something to say?
Email the Hometown Rants & Raves at brevnews@hometownnewsol.com or call (321) 242-1276.

The Rants and Raves section provides a chance for readers to share their thoughts with other readers. The opinions included are not those of Hometown News or its employees.

Please limit your submissions to 250 words, so that we can include more entries. Readers are asked to refrain from making libelous statements.

It’s difficult to believe forecast of supercomputers

It’s great to know that everybody in Brevard County survived Hurricane Irma, but no thanks to those computer models that couldn’t accurately tell Floridians where the eye of the hurricane would hit and blow through Florida.

The most accurate model used a supercomputer, which also are used to predict what the climate will be in 30, 50 or 100 years.

If a supercomputer can’t accurately predict within a few hours where the eye of a hurricane will travel, why should we believe that it can accurately predict climate change so many years from now?

Area off of Jupiter Boulevard shady to say the least

I noticed that when Pearl and I get out of Bible study, there are many prostitutes congregating outside of the TruValue Hardware Store on Jupiter Boulevard just five blocks north of Siboney Avenue in NW Palm Bay.

This TruValue is just north of a Dollar General store.

Believe me, you do not want to go into that Dollar General store.

Picture this, no security guard, but crack and opioid addicts, in addition to Johns and low-class prostitutes.

It was very intimidating to be in that Dollar General, Pearl and I will never darken that establishment again with our shadows.

Pearl asked me where are the police? I was dumbfounded, I did not know what to tell her. I can’t believe the amount of prostitutes that are there and outside the Volunteer Fire Department that is across the street, located on the western side of Jupiter Boulevard.

This area is mostly private one-family homes, where did all these criminals come from and why did they make Palm Bay their home?

Palm Bay is a Godly, Bible-thumping community. Where are the pillars of this outstanding community?

Unannounced Social Security raise hid several secrets

We finally get a raise in Social Security and without our knowledge, our so-called wonderful congressmen changed the law on what we have to pay for Part B and they took that law away from us. Those of us who have been on SS for a extended time were stripped of our exemption for a measly two dollars.

Oh, and if you call Social Security, be prepared to wait at least an hour before you talk to a human.

Aldi’s is the best-kept grocery secret in Brevard

The tightwads know where to grocery shop.

If you’re serious about saving money, Aldi is the best-kept secret in Brevard County. I’ve also lived in the northeast and Midwest, and Aldi always has been the least expensive grocery store to shop.

If you’ve never been to Aldi, go and compare prices. And remember, eggs are eggs, sugar is sugar, and produce is produce.

Critics need to shop somewhere else

To all the complainers: If you feel prices are higher than you want to pay why don’t you try Save-A-Lot or Aldi?

Save-A-Lot even has their own butchers just like Publix and Winn Dixie.

Plus there’s always Target or Walmart.

Maybe in your particular area you’d have to drive a bit further but possibly you could still save some money.

Even Family Dollar and Dollar General carry groceries including dairy products and prepackaged meat - oh, and if you are really broke, try Dollar Tree - they have quite a line of frozen items and canned goods - even bread.

If you don’t like marijuana, don’t smoke it, shut up

So some think legalizing pot is problematic.

Why? It’s not dangerous like meth, oxycontin, percorce, coke and others. Schedule 1? Whatever! Always those who don’t smoke that think a law is needed to prevent all others from smoking.

I’m sure almost all pot smokers want to give you folks the middle finger.

If you don’t like it, don’t smoke it . . . and shut up!

Pot is like drinking a beer to many. And having some of both at the beach

See RANTS, page 10

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Bills would require HS students to learn CPR

By Austin Rushnell
ARushnell@hometownnewsol.com

BREVARD COUNTY – Having the correct training in an emergency situation can be the difference between life or death, and for one Viera High School student, the correct training and tools saved her life.

According to a recent press release by Brevard Public Schools, Viera High student Lexi Sima suffered cardiac arrest in the high school gymnasium, and was revived with CPR and an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) machine.

After Lexi’s experience, her family, led by her father, Shawn, has been pushing for legislation that would require high schools to institute mandatory CPR training for all students. In late November, two bills were filed by State Sen. Debbie Mayfield (R-Vero Beach) and Rep. Thad Altman (R-Indialantic) in support of the training.

"House Bill 795 and Senate Bill 996 mirror Brevard Public Schools’ new policy requiring CPR training prior to graduation, and goes further to include AED training," officials stated. "The goal is to make the requirement statewide."

Brevard became the 11th district in Florida requiring the instruction for graduation, BPS officials said. The training will be incorporated into mandatory health classes and will use kits provided by the American Heart Association. The kits include tools which teach CPR skills, AED use and choking relief.

For more information about the new bills, call Brevard Public Schools at 321-633-1000 ext. 500.

Two new bills that will require Brevard high school students to take CPR and AED training have been successfully signed into action.

Jingle Jet

From page 3

By about 3 p.m., the limousines arrived to take the families with their new Christmas tree and presents back home.

“Starting Jan. 1, we’re going to begin the process of planning the next Jingle Jet,” Mr. Zazza said. “We’re hopeful to announce some new projects next year.”

For more information, visit www.zazzacommunity.org/projects/jingle-jet.

Calendar

From page 5

Kwanzaa nationally and the 6th anniversary celebrating Kwanzaa in Brevard County.

For more information about Kwanzaa Celebration 2017, call 321-215-1226, email nsc.nguzosaba@aol.com or go to www.nguzosabacommittee.weebly.com.

Karaoke night: Elks Lodge No. 1744 welcomes Elks and guests to their lodge, 211 S. Nieman Ave., Melbourne, for Karaoke with Janice and Rene each Tuesday from 6 to 9 p.m. Supper is available after 5 p.m.

For more information about room rentals or scheduled activities, call 321-768-1744.

THURSDAY, DEC. 28

Bobcat chat: View a photo presentation about the elusive creatures and learn about the bobcat’s natural history Thursday, Dec. 28 at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge’s auditorium, 1987 Scrub Jay Way, Titusville.

For more information, call 321-861-0669.
Dogs displaced by Hurricane Maria arrive in Brevard

For Hometown News
newsml@hometownnewsonline.com

TITUSVILLE – The lives of 11 dogs changed for the better on Dec. 15 when they arrived in Florida and to the care of the SPCA of Brevard County.

The dogs were displaced from their homes in St. Croix due to Hurricane Maria and were saved by the ASPCA.

“We are excited to be part of the next chapter in these dogs’ stories, to bridge the gap until they find their forever homes,” said Angie Friers, executive director for the SPCA of Brevard.

For more information, call 321-724-0060.

Historical walk: The annual Melbourne Beach New Year’s Day Historical Walk through the town’s historic district will begin at 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 1, at the River Pier at the west end of Ocean Avenue at Ryckman Park.

The free walk will take a little more than an hour. Old photographs will be shown along the way. The walk concludes with a tour of the 125-year-old Community Chapel and a reception across the street in the Community Center.

For more information, call 321-723-2655.

New exhibit: “Poetic Visions,” art inspired by a poem or a song, will open Jan. 2 at Fifth Avenue Art Gallery, 1470 Highland Avenue, Melbourne.

This will be a chance to get a bit of insight into an artist’s mind and vision as they merge the two arts, lyrical and visual.

The inspiring verse also will be displayed along with the artwork.

Enjoy the opening reception from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Jan. 5.

The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, call 321-239-8261 or go to www.fifthavenueartgallery.com.

The Sams House Story Time: Stop by for story time from 10:30 to 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2, at Sams House at Pine Island Conservation Area, 6195 N. Tropical Trail, Merritt Island. We will be reading ‘Raccoon at Clear Creek Road’ by Carolyn B. Otto and making raccoon masks afterward. For ages 8 and younger. For more information, call 321-449-4720.

Orlando Magic Innovation Lab co-founder to speak: Jack Elkins, co-founder of the Orlando Magic Innovation Lab and founder of the Perspectives Institute, will address the Greater Palm Bay Chamber of Commerce at its monthly luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 3, at the Life Care Center, 175 Villa Nueva Ave., Palm Bay.

Elkins lead the team’s innovation initiatives and created one of the first innovation labs in professional sports.

For more information or to register for the event, call 321-951-9998 or go to www.greaterpalmbaychamber.com.

See CALENDAR, page 9
Cyclists donate $500 to Harmony Farms, Inc.

By Brittany Mulligan
bmulligan@hometownnewsol.com

COCOA – Volunteering is not only a great way to support your community, it also helps make a difference in other’s lives and maybe even your own.

On Dec. 16, members from Space Coast Freewheelers (SCF) cycled from Cocoa Village to Harmony Farms, Inc. in Cocoa to learn about how funds recently donated from the group’s Intracoastal Waterway Century (ICWC) event will help the not-for-profit charity organization.

“We believe you’re doing incredible work in the community,” SCF Ride Director Jim O’Leary said during the check presentation. “Volunteers from Harmony Farms, Inc. have helped us at our SAG stop for the ICWC and we appreciate the partnership.”

Space Coast Freewheelers donated $500 to Harmony Farms, Inc. in November, but wanted members to learn about the charity organization in person.

“We have two major events during the year, which are largely to raise funds for charitable giving in the county,” Mr. O’Leary explained.

Owner Pamela Rogan told cyclists about how Harmony Farms, Inc. mission is to help the community through equine-assisted therapy and the programs that are available.

Space Coast Freewheelers have donated $500 to Harmony Farms, Inc., one of many local beneficiaries from the cycling organization’s annual Intracoastal Waterway Century.

Harmony Farms, Inc. offers activities and therapy to disabled individuals, working with their abilities in order to improve their mental, physical and emotional behavior.

“We take people out of a wheelchair and put them on a horse, which makes them use muscles they don’t normally use,” Mrs. Rogan explained. “There’s no back or arm rest on a horse, so it makes you use your core muscles.”

She added that when riding a horse at a walk, it simulates the same movements people make when they walk.

Therapy riding is also the No. 1 activity for autistic children, Mrs. Rogan said. She explained that riding involves fewer people, which makes it a more comfortable environment for autistic individuals.

Therapy riding helps children learn to interact with people assisting during the ride, Mrs. Rogan said. It makes them get used to the sensation of touch when sitting on the horse and allowing others to help them onto the horse, as well as helping them stay focused as they have to pay attention during the ride.

Harmony Farms, Inc. also works with veterans who suffer from PTSD and offers a literacy program for elementary-age students.

For more information, visit www.spacecoastfreewheelers.com and www.harmonyfarmsinc.com.

Photo courtesy of Dennis Florian

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Calendar
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Parks and recreation board to meet:
The Brevard County Parks and Recreation Central Area Parks Operations District 4 Administrative Board will meet at 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 4, at the Central Area Parks Operations Office, 840 Forrest Ave., Cocoa. The meeting is open to the public.

Operations Office, 840 Forrest Ave., Thursday, Jan. 4, at the Central Area Parks Administrative Board will meet at 2 p.m.

The Brevard County Parks and Recreation Central Area Parks Operations District 4 Administrative Board will meet at 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 4, at the Central Area Parks Operations Office, 840 Forrest Ave., Cocoa. The meeting is open to the public.

For more information, call 321-633-2000 or go to www.brevardcounty.us.

See CALENDAR, page 10
Roofers’ Association Raises $16,800 to Provide Meals

BREJVARD COUNTY - The Space Coast Licensed Roofer’s Association presented Publix Supermarkets with a check for $16,800 to provide about 300 needy families with holiday meals. The amount exceeded the association’s “Meals for the Holidays” fundraising goal by $10,000, said Melbourne City Council member Paul Alfrey, a past president of SCLRA.

“It is an honor to team up with Publix and other great local organizations to help provide for those in need in Brevard,” Council member Alfrey said.

Because Publix will supply the meals at cost, it will provide about 300 family meals and additional food for local organizations such as The Salvation Army, Second Harvest Food Bank, Meals on Wheels and the Sharing Center of Central Brevard, he said.


“Each company and their employees took part in these fundraising efforts and again prove why Brevard is such a great place to live,” Council member Alfrey said.

For more information, call Council member Alfrey at (321) 508-4339 or Advanced Roof Technology President Steve Scott at 321-394-6393.

Rants

From page 6

by the way seems like a right in this “free country.”

Unfortunately, we have stupid laws from you folks to prevent it.

Why don’t we just crack down on those who create a problem and move along? Oh, that’s nobody!

Not having to fund military might solve problems that plague us

I am an old Army sergeant with 22 years of Army service and 15 years with the Department of Defense as a civilian. I have been in several combat zones with the scars that go along with it.

I always have wondered what the world would be like if we did not have to maintain a standing Army, and a powerful Navy and Air Force. Just a few Marines. The world could use those saved resources and many lives to work on the problems that plague us.

Think of all the diseases that would now have a cure.

Good, wholesome food for the entire world, clean water for everyone. Decent housing for everyone. The quality of life for everyone would have been enhanced.

Now North Korea is flexing its muscles trying to intimidate the world.

Where will it all lead? Nowhere.

Why can’t the people of the world work together for the greater good of all?

I am just an old Army sergeant looking at what could have been, and still could be if the people of the world would work together. A little trust goes a long way.

One reader shares insight on grocery store rankings

If you want the facts about grocery stores in our area, this is how they stack up. Numbers in brackets are how they rank nationwide.

1 (4) Publix
2 (13) Aldi
3 (32) BJ’s
4 (39) Sam’s Club
5 (44) Target
6 (52) Winn-Dixie
7 (62) Wal-Mart

Let’s get the stories straight.

Calendar

From page 9

Tropical Trail, Merritt Island.

Presented by Shari Blissett-Clark of Florida Bat Conservancy, learn how to properly install your new house in your yard, and discover why bats are so beneficial to Central Florida. (Hint: They eat mosquitoes!)

The cost for the workshop is $40 for materials. Bring a battery powered drill. Registration is required. For more information and to reserve a spot, call 321-449-4720.

Adult coloring: Enjoy Adult coloring from 10 a.m. to noon Mondays at the Central Brevard Library, 308 Forrest Ave., Cocoa.

The program is free and supplies are provided.
Shave

From page 1

community we serve,” Public Relations Specialist Samantha Senger said. “United Way is a great organization that supports many nonprofit organizations right here in our own community.”

United Way of Brevard is based in Cocoa, but funds numerous human services nonprofits throughout the county. Some of those located in Cocoa include Aging Matters in Brevard, the Central Brevard Sharing Center and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida Cocoa branch.

New to the city’s United Way campaign this year, the beard and mustache contest follows several other activities such as luncheons and pancake breakfasts.

The contest, proposed by Fire Chief Gene Prince, was inspired by friendly hair-growing competitions that have previously taken place within the fire department.

“He said it’s been a thing in the past in the Fire Department where the guys see who can grow the best mustache,” Ms. Senger said, “so he was thinking, why couldn’t we make this into a fundraiser and have people vote for the best.”

The city will announce the results of the contest and the campaign on Jan. 2.

Contestants with the winning beard and mustache will each receive more than $100 in gift cards and a plaque to display throughout the year.

Surfing

From page 1

Beach.

The Surfing Santas of Cocoa Beach group and event was created by George Trosset Sr. and friends in 2009, when he decided to go out and catch some waves with the help of Santa look-alike Cliff Keuhner, more surfers joined in and a tradition was born. “Surfing Santas are many things,” Mr. Trosset said in an earlier interview. “Surfing Santas come to the beach on Dec. 24 in all kinds of costumes. We have Frosty the Snowman, nutcrackers, elves, reindeer, angels, a Rasta Santa with a dreadlock beard, sexy Surfing Santas, ballerinas, sharks and [even] a Grinch or two.”

New to the event is a costume contest that was started last year. There will be five categories: Babies (ages 0-3), Kids (4-15), Group (2 people or more), Men (16+) and Women (16+).

Trosset said in an earlier interview. “Cliff and I went to high school together, and a few years ago we agreed he would be the perfect one to be Surfing Santa,” Mr. Trosset said.

Along with Grind For Life, funds collected from the event will also benefit the Florida Surf Museum, at 4275 N Atlantic Ave, in Cocoa Beach.

The popular event sparked some friendly competition overseas, as organizers in Australia planned their own Surfing Santa event at Manly Beach in New South Wales.

For more information about the Surfing Santas of Cocoa Beach 2017 surf session, visit www.facebook.com/events/1121418002535303.

Calendar

From page 10

provided.

For more information, call 321-633-1792.

Cub Scouts meet regularly: The City of Melbourne’s Parks and Recreation Department hosts the Cub Scouts from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9, at the Lipscomb Community Center, 3316 Monroe St., Melbourne.

Youths, ages 6 to 11, will learn the basics of life skills, camping trips, scouting techniques and citizenship. The yearly registration fee is $24 and the instructor is Dundrae Lakes.

For more information, call 321-608-7450.

Take a walk, learn to knit: The City of Melbourne’s Parks and Recreation Department hosts Adult Morning Club Wednesdays and Fridays beginning Jan. 10.

Enjoy an early walk to reduce stress, build muscle, strengthen your heart, and learn how to crochet and knit. You also will have the opportunity to learn about basic skills of computers and cell phone technology. Admission is free and for ages 18 years and older.

For more information, call 321-608-7450.

Recognition dinner: The new Board of Directors for 2018 will be announced at the annual Greater Palm Bay Chamber of Commerce Installation and Awards Dinner from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12, at Grand Manor, 1450 Sarno Road, Melbourne.

Enjoy the pre-ceremony reception with champagne followed by a three-course dinner and the installation and awards ceremony.

Business awards for 2017 will be presented people of distinction will be recognized.
Submit ideas to Brevard with a new online form

For Hometown News
newsml@hometownnewsol.com

BREVARD COUNTY - Once again it’s time to “Speak Up Brevard.”

In an effort to provide a formal process for citizens to submit recommendations to Brevard County Government, and as a result of a charter amendment, Brevard County is implementing a web-based application called “Speak Up Brevard.”

The online form will be available through Jan. 1, 2018, at www.brevardfl.gov. It allows citizens to submit ideas which would assist county government in conserving energy, saving costs, eliminating duplication, generating revenue, increasing productivity, or preventing waste. A hard-copy version of the form may also be submitted, and is available through the County Manager’s office.

The process requires submissions to meet a deadline of Jan. 1, after which the County Manager’s office has 45 days to evaluate and comment on the recommendation, and then forward it to the Board of County Commissioners for review.

The Board of County Commissioners must take a final vote to either approve, reject, or revise and accept the recommendation within 120 days. The sponsor of the recommendation will be given at least a weeks notice prior to it being heard and voted on by the Board.

A listing of all recommendations, including disposition, will be posted on the County website.

Visit www.brevardfl.gov, click on the Government tab and then, in the category labeled “Provide Feedback,” recommendations can be posted under the heading “Speak Up Brevard.”

Merry Christmas
from Hometown News

This annual event in its 19th year supports the hobby/ownership of all classic car and truck vehicles.

The “swap” portion of the event is Mopar Only - vendors selling parts for those restoring/replacing parts on their vehicle.

Vendors come from as far as Michigan and New York to participate.

There will be door prizes, a 50/50 drawing and a raffle.

For more information, contact Penny at 321-727-1039 or 321-432-4278, or by e-mail Pander2211@aol.com.

Save the egg: Do you have what it takes to save the egg before it reaches the ground? Join us for “Egg”-streme Parachutes from 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13, at Sams House at Pine Island Conservation Area, 6195 N. Tropical Trail, Merritt Island.

All ages welcome for this family friendly, gravity adventure.

For more information, call 321-449-4720.
‘The Last Jedi’: legacy in the making

By Austin Rushnell
ARushnell@hometownnewsonline.com

S

Starships. Stormtroopers. The lightsaber of a Jedi knight. These components conjure up images of a time long, long ago, in a galaxy far, far away.

The most recent edition of the legendary “Star Wars” films, “Episode VIII: The Last Jedi,” was released to eager audiences on Dec. 15. Seats were packed at the nearby theater where I attended the showing, and not a few people showed up in costume.

The film is first and foremost a familiar one; audiences around the world know of the superb “Star Wars” film franchise, and “The Last Jedi” is a direct sequel to “Episode VII: The Force Awakens,” which was released in 2015.

In “The Last Jedi,” characters that were introduced in “The Force Awakens” were given more time to become fully-fleshed personalities. There were few new characters introduced and still more that weren’t referenced from the previous film, which allowed more opportunities for the writers to develop characters like Rey, Kylo Ren, and even Luke Skywalker.

One of the most notable differences in this “Star Wars” film versus some of the more recent episodes is the amount of tension that was allowed to build. The loyalties of main characters were tested, and these interactions felt real because of the tone of the film; it seemed entirely plausible that Luke, Leia, or some of the main-character rebels actually were in some trouble.

‘Star Wars Episode VIII: The Last Jedi’ is the most recent film in the Star Wars franchise. The film follows the story of the Resistance and The First Order, each fighting for control of the galaxy, while the disappearance of the Jedi knights are investigated by Rey.

As the film progresses, we see the tone of the film; it seemed entirely consistent with the previous films. The interactions felt real because of the chemistry between the actors, and these interactions were a result of the complex characters introduced.

For more information, call 321-254-5493 or go to brevardzoo.org. Tickets start at $42.40. For information, call 321-242-2219 or go to www.kingcenter.com.

Celebrate the season with ‘A Christmas Carol’!

“A Christmas Carol” will be presented at King Center for the Performing Arts Dec. 26. For more information, call 321-254-5493 or go to brevardzoo.org.

Taurus, many things are on your plate, but you don’t feel overwhelmed at all. In fact, you’re ready to lend a helping hand to anyone who needs one.

GEMINI - May 22/June 21

Recreation is the name of the game this week, Gemini. Coming off of a busy period, you are anxious to put your feet up for a few days. Book that vacation right now.

CANCER - June 22/July 22

Use your intuition in regard to others’ feelings this week, Cancer. Give someone who needs it a little leeway, and your thoughtfulness will be appreciated.

LEO - July 23/Aug. 23

Leo, if you think change will do you some good, then it is time to make it happen. Embrace the excitement that comes with making changes.

VIRGO - Aug. 24/Sept. 22

Thanks to a spark of creativity, your plans may change this week, Virgo. Grab someone who is up for an unexpected adventure to join the journey.

LIBRA - Sept. 23/Oct. 23

Libra, a financial windfall has given you some extra spending money. While you may want to splurge, the practical side of you knows some saving is in order. See SCOPES, page 15
A star student

Brad Butti, 15, of Palm Bay, is a freshman at West Shore Junior-Senior High School in Melbourne. He is an Eagle Scout and a 2nd degree black belt in taekwondo.

Tis the Season
Let’s Celebrate Each Other!

Call for bells & whistles
Reach your neighbors via home delivery

Lisa Hamel

Dining & Entertainment

Jedi

From page 13

imminent danger due to the dark insinuations of the film’s title, which was supported by an equally portentous tone.

The cinematography is one of the elements of the film that I had first heard praised by friends before I had seen it, and their claims weren’t unfounded. The shots were beautiful with excellent framing, so that establishing shots of locations and characters were always interesting. The locations were also stunning, especially the Skellig Islands off the coast of Ireland on which Rey met Luke in “The Force Awakens.”

After its initial release, “The Force Awakens” was commonly critiqued on its storyline, which mirrored many of the aspects of the original Star Wars trilogy, especially “Episode IV: A New Hope.”

“The Last Jedi”, however, avoid replaying older tropes by using a combination of new and old ideas from across the “Star Wars” main-storyline.

While this most mostly successful, at some points the film seemed somewhat chaotic in direction, which led to the frequent use of sub-plots versus a focused story arc.

One of the older and most significant aspects that “Jedi” touched upon is the philosophy behind The Force, which has been delicately approached in various films since the beginning of the “Star Wars” franchise. In this film, The Force is discussed with greater clarity by one of the original Jedi Masters.

In short, “Jedi” was an excellent film and a clear addition to the “Star Wars” universe. New characters were further developed, less useful characters were dropped, and important ideas in the “Star Wars” universe were given much-needed context.

Be sure to see the film in theaters, and grab tickets early.

Out

From page 13

7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 23, at the Maxwell C. King Center for the Performing Arts, 3865 N. Wickham Road, Melbourne.

This celebrated Charles Jones adaptation of Charles Dickens “A Christmas Carol” is rich with ensemble music, alive with color and movement, and is created to tell this great and enduring tale in a manner that people of all ages will enjoy. Woven throughout this classic tale are new arrangements and renditions of holiday songs, such as “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”, “Wassail Wassail”, “Good Christian Men Rejoice”, “Away in a Manger”, “Greensleeves”, “The Boar’s Head Carol”, and many more. Featuring a cast of 23 performers, live musicians, and Broadway-style scenery and costumes, audiences cherish this holiday classic.

See OUT, page 15

Sunshine Health Foods
2916 S. Washington Ave., Titusville • 321-269-4848

Q: How about a little help with stress over the holidays?

A: Before I mentioned several amino acids shown to alleviate stress, Theanine, Glycine, Taurine and GABA all have inhibitory properties that help you chill when things get a bit edgy. A new product called Gabatrol has most of the amino acids I listed above. These are all naturally occurring and are not known to be toxic in typical doses. Gabatrol has the added benefit of “Phenyl gaba” which is thought to travel into the brain in higher concentration than GABA alone. There is one study that shows theonine to be as effective as xanax, ativan or valium.

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-Henry Ford

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Are you a fan of the Hometown News? Well, we are inviting you to take us along on your next adventure.

Each week, we will feature a different reader-submitted photo that showcases one (or more) of our Brevard County residents reading the Hometown News in a unique or exotic place. Whether you take a trip to the Grand Canyon or a cruise to the Bahamas, bring your Hometown News with you and have someone snap a picture.

Email your photo (at least 1 MB in size) to yourphotos@hometownnewsOL.com and include your first and last name, the city you live in and the location/date of where the photo was taken. Type ‘TOURING WITH THE TOWNIES’ in the subject line.

Let’s see how many places we can go!
Genna Pizza offers new menu, great food

By Brittany Mulligan
bmulligan@hometownnewsol.com

BREVARD COUNTY – When it comes to pizza, the perfect pie can come in many forms from the thickness of the crust to a variety of delicious toppings.

Charlie Marchica, owner of Genna Pizza Company, 4301 N. Wickham Road, Melbourne, wants to give his customers the most authentic dining experience, which includes taking custom pizza orders.

A New York native who hails from Long Island, Mr. Marchica imports his fresh mozzarella straight from Brooklyn and only works with the freshest ingredients. Every dish is even made from scratch, according to his cook, Gabriel Luna.

“We use all natural components and we make our bread fresh by hand,” Mr. Luna explained.

Big changes were made at Genna Pizza Company recently when Mr. Marchica expanded the business with a new dining area, obtained a beer and wine license, and added new items to the menu.

“We only buy the most premium ingredients,” Mr. Marchica said. “Our pepperoni comes from Boar’s Head and we have a baker coming in three days a week to make our desserts.”

The menu already boasts of a variety of Italian flavors but when I had the chance to visit, I sampled as much pizza of Italian flavors but when I had the chance to visit, I sampled as much pizza as my stomach could handle.

First, though, I had to try the goat cheese. I was given a goat cheese salad as my stomach could handle.

“Here’s a goat cheese salad, it’s very fresh,” Mr. Marchica said.

It was served with a mixture of arugula and baby lettuces with a lemon vinaigrette dressing and topped with fresh cheese made from a local farm.

“Cheese is always a little bit of a challenge,” Mr. Marchica said.

The second goat cheese sampling was similar to a texture and taste of cream cheese but with a goat cheese after-taste.

Meanwhile, my first pizza dish came out of the oven. I started with a slice of the margarita pizza, which was made with a thin crust, a sweet tomato sauce and fresh basil leaves. Each bite of the combined flavors and gooey mozzarella cheese was so good.

“I’d never heard of a grandma-styled pizza, so Mr. Marchica made me one to try. You can’t go wrong with pizza, and this square-shaped pie made a great impression. It was similar to the margarita pizza in taste but the crust was just the right amount of crispy.

Next, the pepperoni pizza arrived with large, thin slices on top. This was probably my favorite because I’d never had pepperoni on my pizza as tasty as this.

Then there was the cheese pizza. It’s a classic, and if you visit Genna Pizza Company on Mondays you can order a 14-inch cheese pizza for $5.99 with $1.50 per topping.

If you like barbeque, then the BBQ pizza is a great match. The barbeque sauce was mouth-watering when paired with pulled pork and bacon on top of the cheese.

Five slices in, I was feeling too full to try the rest of the pizza offered. There are so many different ways to make pizza, and Genna Pizza Company is creative with its menu. From a macaroni and cheese pizza with a special Genna sauce to chicken cordon bleu, the menu is not lacking in flavor.

Besides pizza, the restaurant also offers lasagna, calzone, Stromboli, hot and cold sandwiches, salads and many more items.

Whether you’re a regular or a first-time customer, it’s free to sign up for Genna Pizza Company’s VIP Club, which sends out text messages or emails when new coupons or specials are available.

Genna Pizza Company is open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday.

For more information, call (321) 242-1437.

Tips for better cooking in the oven:

- Preheat the oven to the appropriate temperature before placing the dish inside.
- Use a thermometer to check the internal temperature of the dish.
- Cover the dish with foil or a lid to reduce cooking time and prevent burning.
- Check the dish frequently and adjust the temperature or cooking time as needed.

By Brittany Mulligan
bmulligan@hometownnewsol.com

As a pizza lover, I was pleasantly surprised by the variety of options available at Genna Pizza Company. The goat cheese salad was a welcome addition to the menu, and the pepperoni pizza was a delicious choice. I highly recommend trying the BBQ pizza as well.

The restaurant’s commitment to using natural ingredients and making everything from scratch is evident in the quality of the food. I look forward to returning to try more of their offerings, including the lasagna and calzone.

Overall, Genna Pizza Company is an excellent choice for anyone looking for an authentic Italian dining experience. The menu is diverse and offers something for everyone, making it a great option for families and groups.

For more information, visit www.gennapizzacompany.com or call (321) 242-1437.

Help us celebrate one of the Space Coast’s most popular pastimes by submitting a photo of your most recent catch – straight from Brevard’s waters.

Email a photo of your most recent catch – straight from Brevard’s waters.

Tonya Grega Kellagher of Fort Pierce caught this 10-pound gator trout in the coastal Fort Pierce waters.

Is your pet worthy of the spotlight?

Hometown News will be the judge of that.

We are asking our readers to submit photos of their beloved pets, as part of our “Pet of the Week” Contest. The winner for the week will have his or her pet displayed in our newspaper, while also being qualified to become the Hometown News “Pet of the Year!” Email a photo of your pet (one entry per owner) that is at least 1 MB in size to yourphotos@hometownnewsol.com.

Write “PET ON THE WEEK CONTEST” in the subject line, and in the body of the email, please include the following information:

- Name of pet
- Age
- Breed
- Three of your pet’s favorite things to do
- Pet owner’s full name and hometown
- Phone number (in case we have questions)

Staff photo by Brittany Mulligan

Genna Pizza Company is open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday.

For more information, call (321) 242-3003 or visit www.pizza4dinner.com.
Ring in the New Year with Swingtime band

By Brittany Mulligan
bmulligan@hometownnews.com

BREVARD COUNTY – Where will you be when the ball drops?

Swingtime, a 22-piece big band ensemble from the Melbourne Municipal Band, is inviting adults to an exciting New Year’s Eve affair.

The New Year’s Eve Gala Dinner and Dance is from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 31 at the Holiday Inn Melbourne-Viera Conference Center, 8298 N. Wickham Road.

“We enjoy performing and bringing in the New Year as people have a good time,” said Art Martin, conductor of Swingtime. “We’re bringing back the elegance of what New Year’s Eve used to be.”

Swingtime will be celebrating the New Year with dinner, dancing, a midnight balloon drop and champagne toasting.

The night will begin with a piano and cash bar available at 8 p.m. with dinner following from 9 to 10 p.m. The Swingtimers Vocal Trio will perform a dinner show of music reminiscent of the Manhattan Transfer.

Dinner will include a double entree of petite filet and chicken marsala.

Swingtime will take over the dance floor from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. with vocalists Len Fallen and Dorothy Wright.

“Many New Year’s Eve parties in the area have a DJ, and we want to put on something different,” Mr. Martin said.

Swingtime consists of saxophones, trombones, trumpets, a piano, guitar, bass and trap set, along with two vocalists and a conductor/announcer.

The band plays music from the 1920s to the 1970s.

Black tie or formal dress is recommended for this event. Those looking to spend the night at the hotel can call ahead for a special room rate at (321) 255-0077.

Tickets to the dinner and dance are limited and cost $110 per person. A table for 10 can be reserved for $1,100.

Tickets can be ordered by visiting www.melbournemunicipalband.org or by visiting the Holiday Inn Melbourne-Viera Conference Center.

For more information, call (321) 339-7705.
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Keep up on Titusville’s latest!

www.Titusville.com
Remembering French Christmas traditions, customs

Christmas has always been one of my favorite times of the year. From the twinkling lights on the tree to the joyful music, I always look forward to seeing the holiday cheer spread throughout the community.

Some things that have always made this time of year extra special to me are the Christmas traditions my mom follows from her Catholic French background.

Every year without fail she begins the month of December by building her Christmas Provençale village crèche. It grows each year as she purchases new “Santons de Provence,” which are hand-painted terracotta figurines.

Her creativity knows no bounds as she captures the Provençale life with a harbor area, churchyard, school, mill, shepherd, and, of course, a nativity scene.

My dad occasionally helps – by adding in little figures that would be totally out of place in Provence. It takes my mom a day or two to notice a flamingo, “Slitheen” (a round, green alien from the television show “Doctor Who”) and other misfit characters before she removes them from the village scene.

Setting up this magnificent crèche generally takes her a few days to complete as she sets up a table in the living room and creates mountains, lights and life out of thin air.

To me, it wouldn’t be Christmas without her Provençale crèche, and when it is finished, it’s time to prepare the lentils!

On Dec. 4, Saint Barbara’s Day, it is a tradition in the south of France to plant a dish of wheat or lentils for good luck.

For the next 20 days, ending on Christmas, if your lentils grow tall and thick, it is a sign of wealth following you in the New Year. If it doesn’t grow so well ... that’s just tradition, right?

It’s easy enough to put together. What we do is take a small dessert dish and put down cotton, covering it with lentils. We leave it in a sunny spot in the house and wet them each day, and by the second day you can already see some green sprouting from the lentils.

My mom has been planting little dishes of lentils ever since she was a little kid in France. Her family would place the dishes by the manger and watch it grow.

One of my favorite traditions includes a stop by St. Nicholas, but not the jolly white-bearded man who comes down the chimney!

Ever since I was a child, my mom celebrated the feast of St. Nicholas with my family on Dec. 6. She would take my shoes 

See TRADITIONS, page 20.
Obituaries

David Agee
David Agee, 83, of Titusville, died Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2017. Arrangements were made by North Brevard Funeral Home.

John Kenney
John Kenney, 80, of Titusville, died Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2017. Arrangements were made by North Brevard Funeral Home.

Gene Parker
Gene Parker, 89, of Titusville, died Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2017. Arrangements were made by North Brevard Funeral Home.

Dolores Wassmuth
Dolores Wassmuth, 84, of Titusville, died Thursday, Dec. 7, 2017. Arrangements were made by North Brevard Funeral Home.

Elmer Howard
Elmer Howard, 86, of Titusville, died Thursday, Dec. 7, 2017. Arrangements were made by North Brevard Funeral Home.

Patricia Miller
Patricia Miller, 75, of Mims, died Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017. Arrangements were made by North Brevard Funeral Home.

Alva Stewart
Alva Stewart, 81, of Titusville, died Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017. Arrangements were made by North Brevard Funeral Home.

William Joseph Stefano
William Joseph Stefano, 81, of Titusville, died Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017. Arrangements were made by North Brevard Funeral Home.

Shane Michael Colvin
Shane Michael Colvin, 37, of Titusville, died Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017. Arrangements were made by North Brevard Funeral Home.

Margie Ruth Smith
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Traditions
From page 19

and place them by the fireplace (or living room for when we moved to Brevard, where we don't have one of those) and leave a chocolate-shaped Santa Claus inside.

When I woke up on the feast day, it was a little exciting way to start my day. Even in college when I no longer lived at home, it was a fun little thing to do to mark the day and celebrate tradition.

Christmas doesn't quite end at my house on Dec. 25. We typically wait until the Epiphany on Jan. 6 before our Christmas decorations come down. Usually on the Epiphany, it is custom for French people to get together and they make a special cake called a “galette des rois” (also known as a “king cake”), which has a little bean or figurine inside.

In America, the King Cake is popular around Mardi Gras in New Orleans. If you're the lucky person who gets the slice with the piece, you become “king” of the day and it is your turn to make the next cake with the piece inside.

The cake-making can keep going on until everyone has had a turn. My mom's commitment to tradition is one I admire and hope to uphold as I get older. Although I'm not sure I'll be able to match the creativity of her crèche, the fact that she does it each year inspires me to try my own.
Cremations Service.

Eugene Reilly

Eugene Reilly, 82, of Merritt Island, died Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017. Arrangements were made by Island Cremations Service.

Shariff A. Elsamalogy

Shariff A. Elsamalogy, 24, of Merritt Island, died Thursday, Dec. 7, 2017. Arrangements were made by Island Cremations Service.

Florence Haberland

Florence Haberland, 78, of Cocoa, died Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017. Arrangements were made by Island Cremations Service.

Brooke Stine

Brooke Stine, 21, of Merritt Island, died Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017. Arrangements were made by Island Cremations Service.

Oran Bertsch

Oran Bertsch, 71, of Titusville, died Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017. Arrangements were made by Ammen Family Cremation and Funeral Care.

James Malia

James Malia, 90, of Merritt Island, died Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017. Arrangements were made by Ammen Family Cremation and Funeral Care.

Judith Gash

Judith Gash, 62, of Cocoa, died Friday, Dec. 8, 2017. Arrangements were made by Ammen Family Cremation and Funeral Care.
NOTICE

Pursuant to section 865.09 of the Florida Statutes, by the Division of Corporations, Florida Department of State, intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations, Florida Department of State pursuant to section 865.09 of the Florida Statutes.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Nancy Minerva, owner, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of Shotgun Shooting Hillsborough County, Florida, intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations, Florida Department of State pursuant to section 865.09 of the Florida Statutes.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Abie Guera, owner, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of Ave Uav located in Brevard County, Florida, Department of State, intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations, Florida Department of State pursuant to section 865.09 of the Florida Statutes.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Matthew A. Matthews, owner, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of Pratt Hillsborough County, Florida, intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations, Florida Department of State pursuant to section 865.09 of the Florida Statutes.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Glenn R. Davis, owner, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of Voss CPA located in Brevard County, Florida, intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations, Florida Department of State pursuant to section 865.09 of the Florida Statutes.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Lozanna R. Roberts, owner, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of Pratt Brevard County, Florida, intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations, Florida Department of State pursuant to section 865.09 of the Florida Statutes.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Richard K. Pratt, owner, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of Pratt Brevard County, Florida, intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations, Florida Department of State pursuant to section 865.09 of the Florida Statutes.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Hoangminh Thuc Ha, owner, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of Regal Brevard County, Florida, intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations, Florida Department of State pursuant to section 865.09 of the Florida Statutes.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Lynn Nguyen & Co., owners, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of Lynn Nguyen & Co. located in Brevard County, Florida, intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations, Florida Department of State pursuant to section 865.09 of the Florida Statutes.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Nancy Minerva, owner, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of Amory Lawns located in Brevard County, Florida, intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations, Florida Department of State pursuant to section 865.09 of the Florida Statutes.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Tanya Henderson, an administrative clerk, has requested to revoke your dispensing privilege. This request has been filed.