Picking out pumpkins

Redeemer Lutheran hosted their annual Fall Festival at Indian Riverside Park in Jensen Beach on Sunday, October 13. Here, two-year-old Wesley Meridith and Maverick Nash, 1, hang out in the pumpkin patch.

County to pay costly legal fees

The County Commission quietly closed an expensive chapter to the Lakepoint lawsuit saga

By Donald Rodrigue
For Hometown News

STUART – When the Martin County Commission voted 4-0 to approve its Oct. 8 agenda, that vote also included approving the final, expensive chapter of the Lakepoint lawsuit saga, a $375,000 payment to the Kibbey Wagner law firm here for defending Commissioner Sarah Heard in her criminal trial on alleged public records violations last April. A six-member jury acquitted the commissioner, who was absent for the meeting and item vote, which formed part of the non-discussion Consent Agenda.

The county originally received a higher, $413,489.99 bill from the husband-and-wife team of Jordan and Barbara Kibbey Wagner last June, and

STUART – Emotions ran high in the City Commission chambers Oct. 14 as residents pleaded with Council members to renew the lease on the Pelican Café in Shepherd’s Park to ensure the quirky spot would retain its position as part of Downtown Stuart’s unique charm.

In recent weeks the couple that own the restaurant, Paul and Linda Daly, have mounted a Save the Pelican Café campaign among their loyal base of customers from throughout the Treasure Coast and beyond in order to expedite the lease approval. Other local business owners came out in support of the Pelican Café that evening, such as the owner of DOA Fishing Lures Mark Nichols, who insisted Stuart needed the unique dining experience offered by the Dalys.

"You’ve got all the other ambiances down here, but you can’t go to anyplace like the Pelican," he exclaimed.

Deep Sea Fishing Captain John Hasson agreed, insisting that Stuart needed to protect its family-run businesses like the Pelican Café instead of selling out to the highest bidder.

"We moved up here five years ago from Fort Lauderdale… what you’ve got here is a little piece of paradise, and it’s important for you to support the mom and pops," he said. "We don’t need another Mulligans or Stuart delays Pelican Café decision

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Buying a car when you have a credit problem

Earl Stewart is the owner and general manager of Earl Stewart Toyota in North Palm Beach. The dealership is located at 1215 N. Federal Highway in Lake Park. Contact him at www.earlstewarttoyota.com, call (561) 358-1474, fax (561) 658-0746 or email earl@estoyota.com.

There are fewer things more sensitive or embarrassing than sharing your personal credit problems with a stranger. Having credit problems can also put many buyers in a weakened and defensive position when buying a car. Many people with bad credit or too little credit believe the car dealer is somehow “doing them a favor” by selling them a car and getting them financed. Make no mistake about it. A car dealer is probably making more money selling a person with bad credit a car than one with good credit. If you have a credit problem, go about buying a car with the same care and due diligence as if you had the very best credit. Shop and compare your financing, your interest rate, and your trade-in allowance. Get at least three quotes on each of these.

Lenders who specialize in lending to those with bad credit are known as “special finance” lenders. Many of these lenders charge the dealer a large upfront fee, as much as $2,500. Legally, the dealer is not supposed to add this fee to the price of the car you buy but, in the real world, the price of the car is usually higher as the result of this fee. In addition to an upfront fee, the interest rates are very high from special finance lenders, and they don’t charge large upfront fees.

There is much fraud in special finance lending. Credit applications are falsified to show more time on the job, higher incomes, etc. W-2 forms and check stubs are counterfeited. Buyer’s orders show accessories and equipment that do not really exist on the car. Hold checks or promissory notes are misrepresented as cash down payment. Co-signers signatures are forged. Confederates pose as employers, answering pay phones to verify employment. These falsifications are performed by finance managers, salesmen, brokers for special finance lenders (who are paid on commission) and the customers themselves. If you sign a credit application, be sure that you know all the information on that application is accurate. Be sure that you understand and agree to all parts of the transaction including down payments, accessories on the car, etc. Never be a party to falsifying information to a lender to obtain a loan. This is a criminal offense.

Advertisements aimed at people with bad credit usually exaggerate with claims like, “We finance everyone”, “Wanted, good people with bad credit”, “No credit, no problems”, and, my favorite, “No credit application refused” (it doesn’t say your loan won’t be refused, just your application). My advice is to ignore these kinds of ads and these kinds of dealers. Their strategy is to take advantage of people with bad credit who believe they will buy any car, pay any amount of interest, and any profit to the dealers as long as the dealer can get them a loan.

It is common practice in Florida to encourage the car buyer to drive the car home immediately upon signing all of the papers. In some states like New York this is not permitted until all the car has been registered with the state in the new owner’s name. The reason for this immediate delivery (commonly referred to as the “spot delivery”) is to discourage and possibly even prevent the buyer from changing his mind. Taking possession of the car is a legal consideration making the purchase more binding. I recommend that you not rush the purchase or the delivery. For one thing you want to be sure that the car is exactly the way you want it…clean inside and out, all the accessories properly installed, no dings, dents or scratches, and that you have a complete understanding of how to operate all of the features of the vehicle.

I mention the risk of the “spot delivery” in this column on buying a car with bad credit because it can be especially harmful to someone whose credit is denied after the car has been delivered. You will most likely
New owners carrying on
Stuart nautical retail
trend coupled with
technological advances

By Donald Rodrigue
For Hometown News

STUART – Since 1979, boating fanatics have counted on Chapman Marine Supply to maintain, outfit and refurbish their sail- ing vessels all at discounted prices. That’s the year founder Rob Chapman added the retail component to his already thriving whole marine supply company located near the Northeast corner of Indian Street and South Federal Highway. Mr. Chapman had used his previous experience in the industry to launch a wholesale operation on the site two years prior, and with the new retail component drew his four young sons into the business with him turning it into a true family business.

With only one of his sons still involved in the business, the owner and founder decided to retire in 2015, turning the operation over to the capable hands of Pittsburgh native Thomas O’Brien who had previously relocated with his wife Amy from Upstate New York to the Treasure Coast in 2014.


The staff at Chapman Marine
already got a foretaste of that when he participated in a marine swap held by the flea market.

“I met people that day who had no idea Chapman Marine Supply was located in the adjacent B&A Industrial Park right behind there,” Mr. O’Brien said.

Chapman Marine Supply is located at 2201 S.E. Indian St., Unit A5, just west of the FEC Railroad tracks in South Stuart. It’s open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. The company offers delivery via its own trucks or common carrier from Fort Lauderdale to Palm Coast or anywhere in the world via UPS or FedEx. For more information, call (772) 283-9110 or toll-free at (888) 245-3632 or visit the website at www.chapmanmarine.com
Meet Pepper

Sweet Pepper has had a very difficult time here at HSTC. She has extreme anxiety that causes her to attempt to hurt herself when she is not on medication. She is extra fearful of storms and requires additional medication to prevent her from hurting herself. Pepper is looking for a new home where at least one of her humans is home most of the time. Pepper came to HSTC back in July when her family could no longer continue to help Pepper with her anxiety. She has lived with cats without issue but seems to be picky about her dog friends. Due to her severe anxiety, it is not recommended that Pepper live with very young children. When her anxiety is not so bad she enjoys food puzzle toys, going for long walks, and snuggles. She seems to be house trained and lets staff know she needs to go outside with a sharp bark. Pepper is a HSTC Dolly’s Dream Dog. This means her adoption fee has been sponsored AND she comes with a bunch of extra goodies to help her adjust to her new home. Some of these bonus goodies include a crate and a free 6 week training class. To learn more about Dolly’s Dream, please visit https://www.hstc1.org/dollys-dream.

Jewelry & Watch Repair

50% off Jewelry & Watch Repair

Up to $10 value. Limit one per customer. Parts, Watch sizing, Pearl restringing not included. With this HTN Coupon only Exp 11-1-19

FREE Jewelry Cleaning & Inspection.

With this HTN Coupon only Exp 11-1-19

Mondays-Friday: 9:30am-5:30pm
Saturday: 9:30am-4:00pm

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

• 2nd Annual Treasure Coast Wine & Ale Trail Festival Slated for Nov. 16: The St. Lucie, Indian River and Martin County Tourism Offices and its partners are proud to announce the 2nd Annual Treasure Coast Wine & Ale Trail Festival is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 16 from 1 to 5 p.m. at Summer Crush Vineyard & Winery, located at 4200 Johnston Road in Fort Pierce. Locals and visitors will enjoy locally made craft beer, wine, and cider all crafted right here on the Treasure Coast. Beer, wine and cider will be flowing from 1 to 5 p.m. with live music by Uproot Hootenanny. An admission ticket is $25 in advance or $30 at the door which provides each attendee with one tasting glass and unlimited tastings. Tastings will be available from the Treasure Coast Wine & Ale Trail members, including: Side Door Brewing Co., Hope Life Brewing Co., Sailfish Brewing Co., Islamorada Brewing Co., Pareidolia Brewing Co., Mash Monkeys Brewing Co., Orchid Island Brewery, American Icon Brewing Co., Walking Tree Brewery, Ocean Republic Brewing, Pierced Ciderworks and Summer Crush Winery. An admission ticket is not required to attend the event. Folks can See CALENDAR, page 10

Community calendar

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24

• The Essentials of Immune Health: It starts in the Gut Immune development begins before birth and a variety of factors influence its activity (both positively and negatively). These factors include age, diet, stress, gastrointestinal health, toxic and environmental exposures. Autoimmune conditions are becoming all too common. Join us to learn how you can develop a proactive plan to build immune resources and strengthen your immune system. Our free health seminars are developed by health professionals to provide practical, science-based information on health topics that matter to you and your family. They are designed to help raise awareness, educate and provide participants the tools they need to improve their health and lifestyle. Seminars are held each month. They are held at the Blake Library – Trustees Conference Room (upstairs by the children’s library) 2351 SE Monterey Rd, Stuart, from 6pm to 7pm.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

• Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of Martin County: Find and join us at Memorial Park, Stuart | Registration is at 7:30 a.m. and walk begins at 9:00 a.m. www.makingstrideswalk.org/martincounty-fi

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

• Craft Fair: Located at Elks Lodge #1870, 1001 S. Kanner Hwy, Stuart from 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. Join us for a fun filled afternoon, more than 30 vendors inside, air condition & plenty of parking. Music by Keely. Help us raise funds for this worthy organization: Humane Society of the Treasure Coast, Inc. To reserve a table, call Randi at (772) 287-0277.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16
**Martin County Sheriff’s Department**

James Harris, 63, of Hobe Sound, was arrested Oct. 4 and charged with two counts of possession of methamphetamine within 1,000 ft. of business or worship structure, two counts of possession of a controlled substance, and two counts use of a two-way communication device to facilitate felony.

Robert Locke, 58, of Stuart, was arrested Oct. 4 and charged with possession of marijuana over 20 grams, and manufacture of methamphetamine.

Patrick Romer, 36, of Stuart, was arrested Oct. 4 and charged with possession of methamphetamine within 1,000 ft. of a business/worship structure, and use of a two-way communication device to facilitate felony.

Aaron Shapiro, 52, of Plantation, was arrested Oct. 4 and charged with possession of a controlled substance.

Omar Gatherings, 22, of Stuart, was arrested Oct. 5 and charged with burglary of a dwelling unarmed.

Patrick Romer, 36, of Stuart, was arrested Oct. 4 and charged with possession of methamphetamine within 1,000 ft. of a business/worship structure, and use of a two-way communication device to facilitate felony.

Anthony Malpeli, 21, of Port St. Lucie, was arrested Oct. 6 and charged with possession of a controlled substance.

Shawn Grisson, 44, of Port St. Lucie, was arrested Oct. 6 and charged with two counts of possession of a controlled substance, driving while under the influence, and leaving scene of a crash involving damage to property.

Guilmer Sales-Perez, 20, of Indiantown, was arrested Oct. 6 and charged with robbery without firearm or weapon, petty theft (1st offense), and battery.

Brian Cristy, 45, of Jensen Beach, was arrested Oct. 10 and charged with possession of a controlled substance.

Dylan Ray, 28, of Stuart, was arrested Oct. 10 and charged with possession of methamphetamine within 1,000 ft. of worship structure/business.

Samuel Rodriguez, 46, of Stuart, was arrested Oct. 10 and charged with assault or battery on law enforcement officer/firefighter/EMT.

Lisa Romano, 46, of Huntsville, AL, was arrested Oct. 10 and charged with insurance fraud less than $20,000.

Kahilil Thompson, 23, of Indiantown, was arrested Oct. 10 and charged with three counts of burglary of a conveyance.

Delvin Williams, 38, of Lehigh Acres, was arrested Oct. 10 and charged with obtaining a credit card/purchase with false/expired/counterfeit credit card.

Vanessa Delancy, 34, of Port St. Lucie, was arrested Oct. 10 and charged with obtaining property through communication $300 or more.

Juan Gomez-Colin, 19, of Indiantown, was arrested Oct. 11 and charged with three counts of burglary of a conveyance.

Mateo Maldonado, 22, of Indiantown, was arrested Oct. 11 and charged with burglary of an unoccupied conveyance unarmed.

Chloe Miller, 33, of Stuart, was arrested Oct. 11 and charged with use/possession of an ID of another without consent.

Florida Highway Patrol

Sybrone Foxx, 23, of Port St. Lucie, was arrested Oct. 6 and charged with driving while license suspended (habitual offender).

**Police report**

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Rants & Raves

Got something to say?
Email the Hometown Rants & Raves at
newsfp@hometownnewsmediagroup.com

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 slanderous or libelous statements.

Hospital Hospitality

I am a registered nurse with over 50 years at the patients bedside; and more recently a patient myself for a month in a local hospital. Today's nurse no longer has a career, she or he has a job. The owners of the hospitals corporations have a bottom line and it's not patient care. The RN is responsible for too many patients and their care is dictated by the computer. Even if you are a computer whiz, it is time consuming and takes you away from the bedside.

In polls taken over years nursing has always ranked at the top as the most trusted profession; now it has become a job, just get done and document it in the computer and move on.

There is no time to sit with a dying patient; talk with someone just diagnosed with cancer. I know most nurses would like to be able to do that because that is why we became nurses - but there is no time. For physicians, they are told how many patients they should see in a day and how much time physicians, they are told how many patients they should see in a day and how much time.

It's mindless to just rant "Out with the old, in with the new" when the "new" has a record of failure and broken promises. Often accomplished incumbents are in office for good reason. Consider your votes carefully, but for heaven's sake be sure to vote. It's your city be proud of it, be part of it.

Beggar's banquet of tech

You would not believe what I saw driving the other day. It was mind-boggling.

I saw a beggar holding up a sign, 'Will work for food' and the beggar was talking on his cell phone! So let me understand, this guy has no money for food, but can afford a cell phone? I think his priorities are totally out of whack.

Bicycle safety

I go to work early in the morning, about the time some of the kids are headed to school. I live out by the Oslo Middle School in Vero.

This morning I had a shock when I didn't see a young man come across the street in front of my car at the intersection.

He had NO LIGHTS on his bike and wasn't wearing a helmet. This could have been a disaster.

Please remember the law is that bicycles must have working lights and all school children must wear helmets. It really shook me up. Please let's all work together to keep our kids safe.

Drivers with the need for speed

I believe Martin County should construct a speed table on Aster Lane - between SE Rahnke Street and Harbour Cay South Apartments - opposite the Stuart Congregational Church. The drivers who commute on this stretch of street really know how to put a heavy foot to the peddle. They exceed the speed limit, whilst texting and talking on their phones. There are many pedestrians, cyclists and children who use the sidewalk and road. Something needs to be done to slow down these motorists before an accident occurs. The School could benefit from this implementation.

A concerned Community Member of Aster Lane.

Re: Deep State Fears

Sure, the CIA's been wrong, but it was Republican President Dwight D. Eisenhower that started them off sneaking into Iran to do "regime change". And then the next year into Nicaragua. President Nixon was Chile, Tuesday, September 11, 1973. Republican President Reagan "restored" the secret wars of the CIA, esp. in the Central American countries now in such dire straits. Yes, Democrat President Truman created the CIA to gather and analyze intelligence from all.govt. dept., in order to prevent another Pearl Harbor. But after JFK's assassination, he wrote an op-ed to the Washington Post, warning that the CIA seemed to making foreign policy itself, and perhaps should be disbanded. President Truman is also famous for saying: "The buck stops here." I remem- ber President Trump saying he was going to withdraw us from NATO, Afghanistan, etc. But now he's sending American troops to help Saudi Arabia?

Re: Angry mobs, yesterday and today

Oh my goodness are you comparing trump to Jesus? You should be ashamed of yourself. I bet you consider yourself a good God fearing person. Yet, you support a bully a bigot and law breaker. Any one that sup- ports Trump is the same as him, a bully and a bigot. If you don't think that look deep inside and wonder how you can listen to what comes out of his mouth and still sup- port him. Do you have a brain? I would compare him to Castro not Jesus.

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Pelican

From page 1

a Flanigan’s. Every time we have company, we take them to the Pelican Café.”

Palm City resident Gerry Saelsperger of the Stuart-based Saelzer-Atlas Wealth Management Group concurred.

“I am a local business owner who is really here on behalf of a business owner who we have really just grown to love over the years,” he said. “It’s a beautiful location with a great staff… and we don’t want to ruin it. It really fits into the ambiance of Downtown Stuart… and I’m here tonight to ask the Commission to vote yes because we feel there’s nothing that we can do to replicate such a great restaurant and a great location.”

Both the Dalys addressed the Board that evening as well, with Mrs. Daly highlighting both her and her husband’s experience in the culinary and related fields. She reiterated the fact the couple has provided language for the current proposed lease ensuring the Pelican Café concept would remain in Stuart regard-less of a change of ownership in the future.

“We don’t believe the citizens of Stuart want to see a change,” she said. “This isn’t so much about a lease renewal, it’s about a choice in lifestyle. That’s one of the last waterfront properties downtown.”

For his part, Mr. Daly complained that the City Commission had waffled back and forth on the terms of the lease agreement, which has frustrated the couple who need assurance of more than the two remaining years on the current lease in order to make a significant investment into the property. Much of the present dining area is outside on a homemade beach, and the couple wants to install an over-hang from the building to protect those diners during inclement weather, among other improvements.

“We need a yes vote tonight, which means we get to keep it, or in two years it goes to the highest bidder,” he fumed. “We’ve been working on this for two years, and we haven’t been able to come to a conclusion. On two different occasions, we’ve accepted a lease from [City Manager] Dave Dyess, and we now have been through six iterations of leases. I’m sick and tired of it.”

Mr. Daly attributed the delay in part to a turnover of city managers and the election of new city commissioners since the time voters approved a referendum authorizing the City of Stuart to provide long-term leases to both the Pelican Café and Mulligan’s Restaurant. While the latter got its long-term lease, Mr. Daly says the former got lost in the shuffle.

“It’s kind of unfinished business,” he explained. “City commissioners were changing, city managers went out and came in and things get left undone. To one the things undone was the Pelican Café.”

Mr. Daly admitted the current proposed 10-year lease with two subsequent five-year options had been “getting stuck in the language going back and forth.” If the terms of that lease are eventually approved, they would provide the City of Stuart with $1,700 a month rent for the location on the Riverwalk near the Roosevelt Bridge plus 3 percent of the restaurant’s gross sales. One of the sticking points was proposed by Mr. Dyess, who wants the city to have the right to renegotiate the lease should the Dalys decide to retire or sell before the lease ends.

“I don’t think that I or anyone else desires to get rid of the Pelican Café,” he said. “However… if the property were to change hands, then we feel the city should have the ability to renegotiate the lease.”

Mrs. Daly, however, continued to balk at that change in the lease.

“Why are you trying to change this language now, after we’ve had the three leases,” she asked. “We have no intentions to sell, there’s nobody waiting in the wings.”

Much of the social media criticism has been directed at the two newest members of the Commission, Merritt Matherson and Mike Meier, who have expressed interest in doing a request for proposal on the city-owned property in question to ensure the city is getting a fair price from the current tenants. Both expressed indignation at being referred to as “the two freshman commissioners,” with the former insisting many of the online accusations were false.

“What I don’t like is to have my colleagues standing up here referred as the mean guys and I get called a freshman,” Commissioner Matherson said. “I don’t know where the rumor came that we want to put a big box store on the end of that peninsula. I don’t think any one of us wants to put an Outback Steakhouse at the end of the peninsula. These negotiations haven’t gone that smoothly, and part of it is the City of Stuart is subsidizing, and the Pelican is not paying market rate rent.”

He also agreed with the new lease provisions that potentially protect the city’s interests in the future.

“The first thing that the Commission needs to decide is if they’re paying market rent… and if they aren’t paying market rent, do we want them to potentially profit off a sale,” Commissioner Matherson continued. “We’d use the capitalistic market to see what the market rate is, or we have it appraised, but they don’t want either of those. But we want it on the taxpayers’ terms and not on their terms.”

Commissioner Meier concurred, admitting it was hard to remain unbiased when “you’re being thrown eggs and tomatoes for weeks.”

“Really what we’re talking about is subsidizing a private business, and [what] I am not interested in doing is subsidizing a business that can make a profit [and] signing a below market lease that can be sold long into the future,” he said. “The public has a right to say whether somebody who might buy this business should have the same right.”

Kelli Glass-Leighton then expressed the tone of the Board majority on the matter.

“I wouldn’t be willing to approve the lease if the city doesn’t have the right to renegotiate the lease,” she said.

Commissioner Matherson then brought up a few more concerns with the proposed lease, such as the number and type of proposed improvements and who would be responsible for repairing windows and maintaining the exterior of the building. According the current terms, the city would be responsible for maintaining the roof of the structure.

“There’s a lot of holes in this lease,” he exclaimed. “Before signing a lease, I’d like to see the square footage of the improvements, and I’d like to see a landscape plan… and … I’d like to know whose responsibility is the windows and the painting.”

His comments appeared to further frustrate Mrs. Daly, particularly when Commissioner Matherson wanted to know the number of proposed fans and misters the couple planned on installing outside for the summertime months.

“We have a concept for the enclosure, but we don’t have the number of misters, and we don’t know if we will have power,” she said. “We’ve already spent $15,000, and we will spend thousands more.”

When it appeared the lease discussions would soon fall into a prolonged debate over the details, both the city manager and the city attorney offered the Dalys an opportunity to take the discussion out of the spotlight.

“We can continue this for 30 days and I can hash this out with the Dalys,” Mr. Dyess said. “We’ve already spent $15,000, and we will spend thousands more.”

“Y ou have the right – since you’re here – to continue to hash it out on the floor,” he said. “Or if you want the first meeting in 30 days… and then the parties will have all signed.”

The Dalys agreed, and the Commission then voted unanimously to table the discussion for 30 days.
October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

By Mike Winkoff
mwinkoff@hometownnewsmediagroup.com

TREASURE COAST - October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, an annual, international campaign to increase awareness, raise funds, and provide information for those affected by the disease.

Throughout the month, supporters wear the pink breast cancer ribbon, the universal symbol that shows support for loved ones battling breast cancer.

Another way to show support is to purchase a mammogram for someone who can’t afford it. Mammograms are the most cost-effective method of early detection, which saves lives.

Mammograms cost about $150, which can be an enormous barrier to women who are uninsured, or even many with insurance.

The National Breast Cancer Foundation provides mammograms and other diagnostic services for women who can’t afford them. To donate a free mammogram, or to find a facility that provides free mammograms, see the links at the end of this article.

Another way to help is to participate in one or all of the American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walks on the Treasure Coast.

“Because of the determination of Making Strides supporters, the American Cancer Society is there for people in every community affected by breast cancer,” said Susan Shaw, executive director, American Cancer Society. “From research to education, prevention to diagnosis and treatment to recovery, we provide support to everyone impacted by breast cancer. At the event, communities embrace a bittersweet mix of purpose, celebrating survivorship and paying meaningful tributes to loved ones lost.”

All local walks start at 9 a.m., with registration at 7 a.m. and opening ceremonies at 7:30 a.m.

On Sat., Oct. 12, join the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk of Indian River, Riverside Park, 3001 Riverside Park Dr., Vero Beach. For more information, visit www.MakingStridesWalk.org/IndianRiverFL.

On Sat., Oct. 19, the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk of St. Lucie County takes place at Port St. Lucie Civic Center, 9221 SE Civic Center Place, Port St. Lucie. For more information, visit www.MakingStridesWalk.org/StLucieFL.

On Sat., Oct. 26, join the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk of Martin County at Memorial Park, 100 East Ocean Blvd., Stuart. For more information, visit www.MakingStridesWalk.org/MartinCountyFL.

To find a facility that provides free mammograms, visit www.nationalbreastcancer.org/national-mammography-program.

To donate to provide a free mammogram for someone else, visit https://fundraise.nbcf.org/give/248734/#!/donation/checkout.
Friday, Oct. 18, 2019


The Commission then asked Clerk of Court Carolyn Timmann to perform a formal evaluation of the fees. Ms. Timmann, in turn, hired Brooklyn, New York-based attorney Robert Allen Morris Jr. to conduct the analysis. Mr. Morris Jr. sent the results to the clerk of court in a letter dated Oct. 2, explaining that he first briefed the members of the Commission, Mr. Heard, and ultimately the courtroom.” Mr. Morris Jr. added. “As such, this stipulation is contingent on the members’ time and ultimately an approval for you to have the fees.”

“Then maybe that will be the reason why County Administrator Taryn Kryzda kept her original brief with the same date as the meeting, Dave Cavette, asked about the payment during public discussion.

“In reference to payment of Commissioner Heard’s legal fees, she was acquitted.” he said. “So help me understand why the county is responsible for paying that.”

“Sir, that item was on Consent and it’s already been approved,” Ms. Kryzda responded.

“April 14, 2019, the County Attorney Ms. Woods then attempted to further clarify the matter for him.

“It’s a fairly complicated legal issue,” she insisted. “If you read today’s agenda item that was approved, it will also provide you with the legal basis of that, but this falls within the narrow common law right to have your legal expenses reimbursed.”

Mr. Cavette, however, still appeared to think that someone else besides Martin County should foot the bill since the jury acquitted Commissioner Heard.

“Okay, I was just saying for the future because she was acquitted,” he further expounded. “Doesn’t that mean she’s found not guilty, so why would the county have to pay? For the future, maybe something could be changed because it’s causing taxpayers to pay.”

Chairman Ed Ciampi then offered the worried citizen a little more background in hopes of easing his concerns.

“This wasn’t a litigation, this was a criminal matter, a commissioner was not being sued by a member of the public,” he said. “It was a civil case with the state attorney’s office. So, the fact that Commissioner Heard was acquitted afforded her the ability to have her attorneys be reimbursed for their fees from the county versus out of Commissioner Heard’s own pocket. As Ms. Woods mentioned, there were legal parameters for us to make that decision. Then to make sure we kept it out of the politics, it’s decided through the clerk of the court and the clerk of the court had taken an out of town expert to review the case. But it wasn’t like a member of the public suing any one of us.”

The Martin County Commission has had its share of angst over the Lakepoint saga. The origins of the controversy go back to 2007 when the then Martin County Commission approved a 1,006-acre equestrian residential development on the southwestern fringes of the county. That idea tanked due to the recession, and Lake Point principles bought the land for $50 million and negotiated an agreement with the City of Stuart and Martin County to begin rock-mining operations on the site. The former County majority balked, however, as the company said it wanted to change the residential plan into a stormwater reclamation project and sell the resulting water to West Palm Beach. The Board subsequently cited Lakepoint for violations, and Lakepoint sued the county, a suit that was ultimately settled out of court in 2017 to the tune of $12 million, on top of $3.7 million in legal expenses.

For her part, Commissioner Heard vehemently opposed the settlement and cast the lone dissenting vote that Nov. 14.

“We didn’t do anything wrong,” she said, referring to her former commissioners who made up the majority at the time. “This is a lawsuit brought by a landowner against Martin County for allegedly breaching a development order. That development order was never breached, not for a minute. When you’re a public servant representing the taxpayers, it’s critical to defend them, particularly when you’re innocent.”

Commissioner Heard and her backers continued to maintain her innocence through her public records trial, with many coming to the podium after her acquittal to proclaim her innocence and admonish the commissioners who voted to settle with Lakepoint. Most legal authorities however, make a distinction between the terms not guilty – a suggestion of not guilty – and innocent. The Neal Davis Law Firm of Houston attempts to clarify the difference on its website.

“Essentially, a verdict of not guilty is an acquittal,” the website states. “If a jury or judge finds you not guilty of a criminal charge, you are acquitted and your case is closed. But an acquittal doesn’t mean the jury or judge found you innocent of the charge – it only means that the prosecution failed to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that you were guilty.”

A陨T & CRAFT SHOW & SALE

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Getting ready for Fall and cooler temperatures

H

ey everybody With cooler temperatures coming (hopefully soon) and the fall season already here, many of us want to start introducing color back into our yards. A popular variety that is now widely available at most garden centers is Geraniums. Annual Geraniums are very popular for their wide range of brilliant, colorful flowers plus their foliage is also very attractive. If you do not see them at your local garden center, they will be arriving very soon!

The types and varieties of these colorful plants vary widely from cultivars that grow 6 inches high to some that grow to be several feet tall. Geraniums need a bright location with at least a couple of hours of direct sun in order to thrive. These wonderful plants also need to be planted in well-drained soil otherwise the plants will be prone to fungus infection and disease.

After planting your colorful treasures, you will want to water them abundantly the first few days, taking care to be sure they drain between watering. Water regularly thereafter still ensuring the plants drain and the soil to dry out between watering intervals. When you water your plants, try to avoid getting water on the leaves of the plant as this can lead to possible disease problems. Do not plant geraniums where they will receive their water from a sprinkler system.

Geraniums are heavy feeders and if not fertilized properly, their leaves may yellow and drop. There are several options you can use for fertilizer such as a slow release fertilizer or a water-soluble fertilizer. The slow release fertilizer will need less intervention on your part as some products such as Osmocote and Dynamite feed for as long as 6 months. Water-soluble fertilizers such as Miracle Gro provide a more immediate fix but will require more frequent feedings about every 2-3 weeks. The water-soluble feeding solutions are quite safe and there is little chance of burning your plants.

There are a couple of things you can do to prolong how many flowers your plants will produce. Probably the single most important solution is to pinch the spent flowers off the stems on a regular basis. This will ensure a season beautiful color. Pinching also has the advantage of helping to produce well-branched and full plants. A good rule of thumb when choosing your treasures is to pick plants that not only have abundant flowers but that have lots of tight buds also. Look for dark green foliage with not a lot of yellow leaves or yellowing at the tips of the leaves.

Today’s garden tip: If you are growing Crotons in a container inside your home, yellowing, dropping leaves can often be a problem. To avoid or reverse this problem, there are several things that can help. First of all, you should try to keep your plants at a fairly constant temperature. These tropical plants also enjoy a humid, moist climate so misting the plant will help raise the humidity levels around the leaves for optimal growth. Water your plants on a regular basis with tepid water and keep the soil evenly moist. Be sure to provide bright light near a window otherwise the plant may shed leaves if the area is too dark. Also be sure to fertilize once a month with a water-soluble fertilizer. With a little care and TLC, your colorful crotons will thrive for many years to come and will add a delicate tropical flair to your decor.

That’s all for this week’s column and I hope you found the content both interesting and informative. I will see you again next week with more great garden tips and information.

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.

Calendar
From page 4

enter the event, free of charge, and purchase great food from area food trucks and beverages from the pavilion bar. Local arts and craft vendors will also be on site selling their unique items. Attendees of this family-friendly event can enjoy a game of disc golf, life-size chess or any of the various activities that Summer Crush has to offer. Food will be available from Georgia Boy & Ethel’s Famous Wings, Red’s Kitchen, Ketch-a-fire and the Taco Dive Food Truck. Tickets to the event can be purchased online at www.summercrushwine.com/event/435.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

- The Four Italian Tenors: What’s better than four Italian tenors? Four Italian tenors honoring four Italian tenors who came before them: Caruso, Lanza, Pavarotti and Bocelli. The Four Italian Tenors: Alessandro D’Acri- sia, Federico Serra, Federico Parisi and Roberto Cresca are making their United States debut in a program of the greatest tenor arias and songs from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., all done in arrangements created especially for their U.S. tour. The tenors will bring to life arias from Rigoletto, La Boheme, and I Pagliacci, as well as beloved Italian songs such as “Volare,” “O Sole Mio,” and “Granada.” They will sing the aria that is guaranteed to bring tears to my eyes, “Nessun Dorma,” from Puccini’s Turandot. The talented singers who bring this wonder-

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Organize a toy drive with your staff or members, then call us to schedule a pick up for the week of Dec. 9-13.

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"limit one per per household. Applies to purchases of 5 or more Classic or Deluxe Elde-Dee” shelves. shelfgenie.com. Offer valid for Classic or Deluxe Shelves. Expires 12/31/2019.
**Weekend events aim to please**

By Dakota Heveron
For Hometown News

**MARTIN COUNTY** – Though it may not feel like it, fall is already three weeks in, and with Halloween quickly approaching, the festivities are ramping up. There will be plenty of chances to celebrate the spooky season in Martin County this weekend.

From Friday, Oct. 18 to Saturday, Oct. 19, the Indiantown Rodeo will be returning to Martin County at Timer Powers Park. The Indiantown Rodeo is sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association and the Women’s Pro Rodeo Association and was voted one of the top 20 events by the Southeast Tourism Society. The event features bareback riding, bull riding, tie-down roping, steer wrestling, and much more.

The rodeo will also feature other entertainment and activities, including a variety of exhibits and vendors and a ‘Kids Corral’ for children. Gates open at 5 p.m. on both days and shows begin at 7:30 p.m. Advanced tickets cost $18 each and may be purchased through Oct. 17 at select Seacoast Bank locations or online. Tickets may also be purchased at the gate for $25 each and children 5 and under enter free. For tickets and more information, please visit www.indiantownchamber.com.

On Friday Oct. 18, Just Believe Recovery, LLC will be hosting a Halloween horror house for adults, as well as a separate kid-friendly haunted house. The children’s haunted house will offer candy giveaways, and other refreshments will also be provided at the event. The haunted houses will run from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Just Believe Recovery on Northeast Jensen Beach Blvd. Admission is free, but Just Believe Recovery will be accepting donations for those in the Baha.

See EVENTS, page 12

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**She's got the moves**

Redeemer Lutheran hosted their annual Fall Festival at Indian Riverside Park in Jensen Beach on Sunday, October 13. Here, three-year-old Piper Geist dances to the music.

Sevin Bullwinkle
staff photographer

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**Out & about**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18**

- **Halloween Horrific Night:** Two different haunted houses. One for adults and 1 for children. Only open October 18th from 6:30 - 9:30. For more information call 772-252-1235. Address is located at Just Believe Recovery Center, 1802 NE Jensen Beach Blvd, Jensen Beach.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18 AND SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19**

- **The Indiantown Rodeo:** Dust off those cowboy boots and polish your belt buckles, the Indiantown Rodeo, presented by the Indiantown Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by U.S. Sugar, will be riding back into town on Friday, October 18 and Saturday, October 19. The gates at Timer Powers Park, 14000 SW Citrus Boulevard, open at 5 p.m. each day with the show starting at 7:30.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19**

- **13th Annual Fire Fest Returns to Jonathan Dickinson State Park:** What: 13th Annual Fire Fest When: Jonathan Dickinson State Park When: 1 p.m. – 9 p.m. Saturday, October 19. Where: Jonathan Dickinson State Park, 16450 SE Federal Hwy, Hobe Sound Price: $6 park entry, $15-20 swamp buggy tickets, $2 hayride tickets, $5 65+ kid and adult giant obstacle course and toddler bounce area, food and drinks for sale.

See OUT, page 13

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**Horoscopes**

**ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20**
Aries, a hectic schedule is on the horizon, so it is important to get your organizational skills in order. Things are bound to get busy as the month wears on.

**TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21**
Taurus, take a few moments at the start of each day this week to just breathe and get ready for what’s in store for you. Doing so will help you tackle anything that comes your way.

**GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21**
Romantic prospects have you eager to spend time with a special someone, Gemini. Block out a night or two when you can enjoy time away as a couple.

**CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22**
Cancer, you may have to let a situation at work blow over instead of letting it get the best of you. It is important to pick your battles in this scenario. Wait it out for the time being.

**LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23**
Leo, a seemingly impossible situation may just need to be seen through a new perspective. Try talking to someone to get a different point of view.

**VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22**
VIRGO, after a lengthy period of rest and relaxation, it is time to get back to the grind. Your skills may be a bit rusty, but things will come back to you quickly.

**LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23**
Libra, you can’t mask a shaky structure, no matter how many superficial changes you make. Devote some attention to those things that need fixing.

See SCOPES, page 12
Inches at the Sebastian Inlet Pier.

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

Email a photo of you with your fish that is at least 1 MB or 300 dpi in size to news@hometownnewsol.com.

Please include the following information:

- Your name
- City you live in
- Age (if 18 or younger)
- Type of fish
- Approximate size of fish
- Area you caught the fish
- Phone number in case we have questions (will not be printed)

Write “CATCH OF THE WEEK” in the subject line, and in the body of the email, please include the following:

- Phone number in case we have questions (will not be printed)
- Approximate size of fish
- Type of fish
- Age (if 18 or younger)
- City you live in

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Adventure Seafood

From page 11

Scopes

Sagittarius - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, if an opportunity for advancement at work pops up, grab it with both hands. You have been waiting for a chance to make your mark and try new things.

Aries - Apr 19/May 20

You are ready to take action this week. Your ideas and plans are gaining momentum, and you could see your efforts pay off sooner than you thought.

Taurus - May 21/Jun 20

Taurus, your best advice this week is to slow down and make sure you have all your ducks in a row before moving forward. You may find unexpected obstacles along the way.

Gemini - Jun 21/Jul 22

Communication is key this week. Whether it’s a project you’re working on or a personal matter, you’ll need to make sure you’re conveying your thoughts clearly and efficiently.

Cancer - Jul 23/Aug 22

Cancer, this week, you might feel overwhelmed by emotions and responsibilities. Take time to connect with friends or family to help you cope.

Leo - Aug 23/Sep 22

You could find yourself in the spotlight this week, Leo. Your confidence will be high, and you may be tempted to take on more than you can handle.

Virgo - Sep 23/Oct 22

Virgo, you might feel pulled in different directions this week. Prioritize your tasks and focus on what’s most important to avoid feeling scattered.

Libra - Oct 23/Nov 22

Libra, this week, you might need to balance your social and professional responsibilities. Communication skills will be key in navigating these demands.

Scorpio - Nov 23/Dec 21

Don’t let your mind get the better of you, Scorpio. It’s easy to dream up scenarios, but put yourself in the here and now this week; the future can wait.

Sagittarius - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, if an opportunity for advancement at work pops up, grab it with both hands. You have been waiting for a chance to make your mark and try new things.

Capricorn - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, you have to push through to the finish line this week even if you are feeling tired. Your reward will come with some weekend festivities.

Aquarius - Jan 21-Feb 18

Changes at work are looming, Aquarius. Try to be receptive to the modifications and find a way to put your own mark on things. A leadership role could emerge.

Pisces - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, you may need to play mediator in a delicate situation this week. Take a careful approach and consider both sides of the coin.

Events

From page 11

St. Lucie Friends of Fire Prevention and Awareness will also celebrate the 75th birthday of Florida’s native wildlife, plants, and rich natural communities, according to the Friends of Jonathan Dickinson State Park website. There will be both day and night live burn demonstrations, and the event will also celebrate the 75th birthday of Smokey the Bear, a well-known mascot of wildfire prevention and awareness.

Fire trucks and other exhibitors will also be on site, and guests will be able to enjoy a variety of fun activities. There will be a helicopter water drop demonstration, live animal encounters, a graveyard garden, marshmallow roasting, live music, and haunted trails for both children and adults. Food and beverages will be available for purchase throughout the day.

Special activities include interactive hayrides, swamp buggy trail rides, and an inflatable obstacle course and bounce house. Tickets for these activities may be purchased at the time of the event or online. It is recommended attendees arrive early as tickets may sell quickly.

Fire Fest will be held at Jonathan Dickinson State Park from 1 p.m. until 9 p.m. The event is free, but guests will need to pay the park admission of $6 per vehicle, up to 8 people. The Friends of Jonathan Dickinson State Park recommend carpooling, as parking is limited, and also advise that attendees bring a flashlight. For more information, please visit www.friendsofjdsp.org.
Touring with the Townies

Oliveann Lancy of Stuart and John Jasper of Port Saint Lucie. At Enterprise Rentals, Foxboro, Massachusetts for their trip to attend a wedding event at Sapphire Manor in Sharon, Massachusetts on March 23, 2019. They also visited Quincy, the birthplace of both John Adams and John Quincy Adams, the only presidential father/son duo born in the same city.

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 Treasure Coast 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 newsfp@hometownnewsmediagroup.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!

Out

From page 11

purchase, prescribed fire demonstrations (day and night), exhibitors from surrounding counties, helicopter water drop demos, live animal encounters, live music, Haunted Spooky Trail, and fall/Halloween décor. Some activities end before 9 p.m. Tickets with discounted prices will be available online.

More Info: 772-532-8089; www.friendsofjdsp.org
Why: To entertain and educate the community on the importance of prescribed fire for our wildlife and future generations. Benefitting: The Friends of Jonathan Dickinson State Park.

Saddle up: The Wild West Children’s Ball is on November 16th at 6 p.m. Our annual Children’s Ball event is all about the kids and this year, we are bringing the Wild West to the Treasure Coast. Wild West themed crafts, game/activity stations, dessert bar, silent & live auctions, as well as a special Wild West performance are on the agenda for the evening. Ticket prices are $30 for Children or $40 for Adults. Horses must stay in the stables. All guests will enjoy an Adult & Child Buffet sponsored by Sonny’s BBQ and adults will receive two drink tickets to use at the Saloon Bar. Mark yourself as ‘Interested’ or ‘Going’ for updates on tickets and details for this year’s event. Our event committee See OUT, page 14

Authentic Italian Food

Fiorentino’s Cuisine

BUY ONE GET ONE FREE!

From Dinner Menu With Ad

Seafood - Veal - Chicken - Pastas - Variety of Vegetarian Dishes
All dinners served with garlic bread and soup or salad
Cannot be combined with other specials Must Bring ad. Expires 11-01-19

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Out from page 11

From Enterprise Rentals, Foxboro, Massachusetts for their trip to attend a wedding event at Sapphire Manor in Sharon, Massachusetts on March 23, 2019. They also visited Quincy, the birthplace of both John Adams and John Quincy Adams, the only presidential father/son duo born in the same city.

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WE ARE OPEN!
Look for Our Grand Opening on November 15th!

• Special Events & Games
• Tournaments
• Refreshments
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$5.00
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Good at All 3 Locations

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It is working hard to bring a Shin Dig fun enough to knock your boots off. Contact us at donations@childrensmuseum.org or (772) 225-7575 Ext. 206 to find out about the multiple sponsorship packages available; promotion included on social media, at the event, e-mail blasts, and on the mailed invitation. Find us at The Children’s Museum of the Treasure Coast, 1707 NE Indian River Drive, Jensen Beach.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24**

**The Essentials of Immune Health:** It starts in the Gut Immune development begins before birth and a variety of factors influence its activity (both positively and negatively). These factors include age, diet, stress, gastrointestinal health, toxic and environmental exposures. Autoimmune conditions are becoming all too common. Join us to learn how you can develop a proactive plan to build immune resources.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 THROUGH SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27**

**• The Essentials of Immune Health:**

**A.C.T. presents Film Screening:** “Neither Wolf nor Dog.” Native American-themed film. Roaring Fire Films Presents a film by Steven Lewis Simpson. Adapted from the best-selling Native American novel “Neither Wolf nor Dog” by Kent Nerburn, the story follows a white author who gets sucked into the heart of contemporary Native American life in the sparse lands of the Dakotas by a 95-year-old Lakota elder and his sidekick. No other novel is acknowledged as so successfully bridging the gap between white America and the Native American world. The film has become the most successful self-distributed movie in some time in the U.S. Named Best Film of 2017, Lewis Fowler, Oklahoma Film Critics Circle. Movie times Oct. 25 at 7:00 p.m., Oct. 26 at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m., Oct. 27 at 2:00 p.m. A.C.T. Studio Theatre, Cedar Pointe Plaza, 2399 SE Ocean Blvd., Stuart. Tickets $12. For tickets and information please call (772) 932-8880 or visit actstudiotheatre.com

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26**

**• Ghosts & Giggles - A Night at the Boo-seum:** A bump in the night. A tingle in your spine. A hilarious joke that tickles your funny bone. Join us at 3 p.m. as we giggle, chuckle and laugh our way to Halloween here at The Children’s Museum of the Treasure Coast. Join us for crafts, trick or treating, and a special appearance from some critters of the night. Don’t forget to make your way into the Glow Zone beneath the Pirate Ship. You won’t want to miss this. Located at The Children’s Museum of the Treasure Coast, 1707 NE Indian River Drive, Jensen Beach.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27**

**• Feathers, Fangs, Fur and FUN:** Busch Wildlife Sanctuary (BWS) to hold Feathers, Fangs, Fur & Fun, Halloween event for the whole family! This special event takes place on Sunday, October 27 from 11AM—2PM. Kids and families are invited to walk the Sanctuary in costume, while collecting candy and meeting animal ambassadors. Join the spooky Sanctuary staff and animals and venture through the Cypress Swamp board walks and Pineland Natural trail. There will be Wildlife Encounters and Story Time in the Cypress Amphitheater for guests along with games and crafts in the Picnic Area. Admission for this event is a $5 donation per person and will be collected upon entry. Fall snacks will be provided by Trader Joes in Palm Beach Gardens! Busch Wildlife also supports the Teal Pumpkin Project, a movement to raise awareness of food allergies and to create a safer, more inclusive Halloween for all trick-or-treaters. Located at The Busch Wildlife Sanctuary, 2500 Jupiter Park Drive, Jupiter.

**ONGOING EVENTS**

**• Under the Stars at Terra Fermata Tiki Bar:** Join us every Thursday from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. for performance by Hurricane Hawk & The Invaders. A BluesBerry Jam Hawksye Production Event will be located at 26 SE 6 St., Stuart. See OUT, page 16
I love tomatoes and so should you

Can you imagine what it would be like not to have tomatoes with which to eat and cook? Oh, by the way, is the tomato a fruit? Because tomato has seeds, it is technically and botanically a fruit along with cucumbers, squash and pumpkin.

Tomato is the official vegetable of New Jersey and Arkansas is not taking any chances, it is the official fruit and vegetable of the state. Next time you shop in the grocery store, don’t expect to find your favorite tomato next to apples and oranges, though.

Tomatoes originated in Peru 3,000 years before the European conqueror Cortez found them being used by the Mayans and Aztec. The tomato arrived in Europe around the mid-1500s.

For many years, almost two centuries, tomatoes were considered poisonous, containing mysterious power and used in magic potions and cures. Then one day the world of food changed when an Italian cook used tomato sauce to flavor meat, and it became a common practice that was brought to America by Italian immigrants.

I love fresh, but let’s talk about canned first. With new processing techniques, we can enjoy tomatoes from different areas of America and Europe year-round. Tomatoes are harvested, washed and quickly boiled, then canned within two days of being picked to preserve the best flavor. It keeps the freshness locked in.

Chopped tomatoes are peeled, chopped and deseeded in their own juice. They are great for quick recipes with a reduced water content creating a pasta sauce that goes well with fish dishes, adding freshness and a slight acidity for balance.

Whole peeled tomatoes are harvested whole, briefly boiled, peeled, and canned in their own juice. They should be cooked quickly to keep their flavor unchanged.

Tomatoes can be used in all classic Italian meat and fish dishes, pasta, pizza, ragu, soups, and stews. Tomato paste, pureed tomatoes heated briefly to a high temperature then sieved, go well in briefly cooked sauces, adding an intense flavor with a sweet note. Tomato paste is made from reduced tomatoes that have been minned and sieved, then heated in an evaporator until it reaches a certain density. It will add color and more tomatoes taste to dishes.

Now my favorite tomatoes: FRESH, FRESH, FRESH! I just love cooking with fresh ingredients, but make sure you use the right tomato. Roma tomatoes are meaty and used in cooking and sauces. I personally think plum tomatoes are good for sauces, but my all-time favorite tomatoes are heirloom and cherry.

Here is my version of a tomato soup:

**Tomato Soup or Chicken Taco soup**

2 large Heirloom tomatoes, chopped
3-stalks celery, chopped
1 medium red onion, chopped
(Recipe ingredient) 4 cups V8 juice (Shhhhh!)
2 cups chicken or vegetable stock
1 cup cheddar cheese, grated
½ cup sour cream
Salt and pepper to taste (if you want make chicken taco soup add ½ bag taco seasoning), two cups taco chips mix well, then add 8 ounces of diced chicken breast and cook until chicken is firm; heat to 165 degrees.

Cook all ingredients except cheese and sour cream over medium heat until vegetables are tender. If you have an immersion blender, blend until smooth. If not, you can cut all vegetable very small before cooking if you do not have am immersion blender. Check the cost of precut vegetables at the store; they are reasonably priced and good for sauces, soups and dressings. Top soup with sour cream and cheese.

Costa Magoulas is dean of the Mori Hosseini College of Hospitality and Culinary Management at Daytona State College. Contact him at (386) 506-3578 or magoulc@daytonastate.edu.
The list of worthy charities is endless. For every person, there is surely a charity worth his or her attention and devotion, be it time or money. Many charities hold golf tournaments to help raise funds to cover their costs.

The Boys & Girls Club of St. Lucie County is one of those charities that holds an annual golf outing and is one of many worthy charities on my list.

We should all be mentors to the youth in our community every day. Just seeing others showing courtesy, being polite, and in general, being decent human beings to others sets a good example to our youth.

On Saturday, November 2nd at Club Med Sandpiper in Port St. Lucie, the Boys & Girls Club will hold its 23rd Annual Chuck Hill Golf Classic.

The tournament is named in honor of founding principal Chuck Hill. Joined by then mayor, Bob Minsky, over 20 years ago the pair moved from a dream to a reality. To raise operating funds that critical first year, Chuck used his connections with local NFL football star Ryan McNeil.

The first tournament involved over 25 NFL players, with all of them not only playing, but sponsoring a skills clinic for the boys and girls of the Club. Over the past two decades, The Classic has traveled throughout the county from one course to another as a way of reflecting the 16 Boys & Girls Club locations that serve the entire county.

To fully appreciate what the Boys & Girls Club does for the youth of St. Lucie County, you need to realize its impact. Currently the Club has over 3,200 members, with the split of boys to girls being about even.

The Club is not just about handing the kids a bat or ball and telling them to occupy themselves and stay out of trouble. The Club teaches leadership, career exploration, academic success, peer engagement, community involvement, healthy habits, life skills, fine arts and physical activity.

The boys and girls on the club use the programs offered to make their lives better. Nearly 2,500 of the members received home work assistance. Those participating in prevention programs totals over 1,300. A full third of the members come from a single-parent home. The Club helps to give them balanced guidance and input from both father and mother figures.

Boys & Girls Club programs save taxpayers more than $9,000 for every student not held back a grade, and a cost avoidance of $3,000 for every youth diverted from criminal activities.

In addition to the positive steps taken in helping its members academically, the Club has seen 97% of its members abstain from smoking, and there have been no teenage pregnancies.

All of this comes with a cost. While many volunteer their time, there are still costs associated with running 16 locations. This is where the Chuck Hill Golf Classic comes in. It’s the largest fund-raiser for the organization.

You are invited to join the Boys & Girls Club of St. Lucie County at Club Med for a great day of golf, filled with competition, fun, prizes, fellowship, all topped off with an International Buffet, served Club Med style.

Golfers will enjoy contests and prizes for longest driver, closest-to-the-pin, and a Shoot-Out. The day starts with registration, breakfast and warm-up from 7:15 to 8:15 a.m. At 8:30 a.m., golfers will head to their carts and hit the course for a shotgun start. Sponsorships start at just $75 and golf with breakfast, lunch and prizes is $100 per person. Over the past 22 years the event has helped to raise over $500,000 for the organization.

Of course, you don’t have to play to help out. Packages for advertising your company with tee signage, program ad, banners and more start at just $50. You can even help by just volunteering to help at the event.

Tournament spots will be limited and there are still spots available. To sign up or help out, contact Charles Cuomo at 772-924-6823 or Dawn Knupp at 772-460-9918 x107 or dknupp@bgcofslc.org.

The Boys & Girls Club of St. Lucie County needs our help to continue to provide life-changing experiences to the youth of our community. Some day these same youth will be our leaders. Let’s help them become the best leaders possible.

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 stammer-golf@yahoo.com.

There is a big difference in supporting individual computer users and supporting small business systems. Sure, I see a lot of the same issues - problems like slow systems, virus-infected machines, and people just not knowing how to use their computers - but when it comes to troubleshooting in the work environment, there is much more pressure.

You see, when someone calls me because their home computer is acting up, they usually aren’t relying on their machine to make a living. When a small business calls me because their system is acting up, it can often mean that one or more people are not able to do their jobs until the problem is resolved. That can translate into massive amounts of pressure because what business wants to have a bunch of employees sitting around unable to work because the “computers are down?”

A while back I had a call from a small business that had a hard drive go bad on their server, and (as is common) they had no backup. What was on this hard drive? Well, all of their office memos, all of their Word and Excel documents, etc., and boy were they upset! Now, one of the first questions that pops into your head may be “well, why wasn’t there a backup?” and although that is a good question, it’s one of those things that comes into your head may be “well, why wasn’t there a backup?” and although that is a good question, it’s one of those things that is best left unasked until after the problem is resolved. Asking the business owner why he didn’t have a backup just puts him on the defensive and doesn’t help at all in the task at hand - which is recovering the data.

In this particular case they thought they had a backup system in place, but no one had checked on it since it was set up and it wasn’t working. Sure, it was set up to run, but every night it failed, and no one had thought to check to make sure that it was indeed working. But again, dwelling on that fact doesn’t get us anywhere closer to our goal and just makes a tense situation even tenser.

Just a few seconds into the call I knew that this was not going to be a “typical” service call. I could hear it in the voice; it was a bad situation. And since this was a hardware issue, I knew I wasn’t going to be able to log in and fix it remotely - I was going to have to go on site, and I really had no idea what I was walking into (or whether I was going to be successful or not). And to add to the pressure, pretty much as soon as I walked in the door, everyone wanted to know “what went wrong?” and “how long is it going to take to fix?” Both are legitimate questions, but it does take time to assess the situation before I can answer anything.

After an hour or so of troubleshooting and running different tests, I was able to determine that the drive was still intact (it wasn’t making that horrible “click” that hard drives often make when they die), and all of the data was still visible on the drive; but I wasn’t promising anything yet! Sure it was a good sign that I could see the data on the drive, but actually getting to the data was proving to be tricky. And it doesn’t help when someone comes in and reminds me every 20 minutes or so how urgent the situation is.

But after a while and throwing everything I had at the problem, I was finally able to recover the data off the bad drive and re-image it onto a new one. Mission accomplished!

So, what is the moral of the story? Well, the lesson I learned (and was able to convey this to the business owner after the data was recovered) was to never assume that your backup scheme is working properly. Check it every now and again just to make sure, (actually, check it regularly! Make it a ritual.) and have some type of disaster recovery plan in place ahead of time. Hard drives don’t last forever, and a good plan can eliminate a lot of anxiety when disaster does happen.

Sean McCarthy fixes computers. He can be reached at 888-752-9049 or help@Computet1ThisOnline.com (No Hypens!)
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